

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015

#### Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

#### Department of Education Question No. ED0220\_15

Senator O'Neill provided in writing.

#### Youth Programs

#### Question

The following questions relate to youth programs:

- a. How many young people were helped by Youth Connections to engage in employment or study?
- b. What support is there in the Budget to support these young people beyond 2014?
- c. If the JSA system is to have more of a youth focus, what will happen between the end of 2014 and mid-2015 when the new JSA contracts start?
- d. How many Partnerships have been brokered by partnership Brokers? Can we have a list? Broken down by state and electorate? Including the partners included and contact details if possible?
- e. Has any assessment of the impacts of not continuing these services been undertaken? Can the Department confirm if each of these will continue, or will cease?
  - i. Young Australian of the Year Award
  - ii. Youth category of the National Awards for Local Government
  - iii. The National Clearinghouse Services
  - iv. National Youth week celebrations
  - v. National Youth Affairs Research Scheme
- f. If there are no alternative pathways to complete year 12 – such as Youth Connections – does the Department have any concerns about reaching the 90 per cent year 12 retention target by 2015.

#### Answer

- a. Between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2013, 74 322 young people were assisted by the Youth Connections programme.
- b. The Australian Government will be investing \$64.5 billion in government and non-government schools over the next four years which will enable states and territories and other education authorities to more effectively engage young people in schooling, particularly those with greater needs. States and territories and individual school principals are responsible for keeping school age children engaged in education.
- c. From 1 July 2014 there will be two new initiatives to support young Australians: the Job Commitment Bonus and the Relocation Assistance to Take Up a Job scheme. Both programmes are managed by the Department of Employment.
- d. The table below shows the number of partnerships supported by Partnership Brokers (as at 23 June 2014) broken down by state.

Jurisdiction	Number of Partnerships Supported (as at 23 June 2014)
ACT	33
NSW	804
NT	79
QLD	564
SA	180
TAS	52
VIC	428
WA	203
<b>Total</b>	<b>2343</b>

It is not possible to provide a list of partner organisations and their contact details due to privacy obligations under the *Privacy Act 1988*.

- e. The following evaluations and reports were commissioned by the Department under the evaluation of the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions to inform future policy and research into youth attainment and transitions:
1. An evaluation of the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions (three reports produced).
  2. Youth Transitions Evidence Base: 2012 Update, Deloitte Access Economics, November 2012.
  3. Positive Pathways for Young People in Remote Communities: What works? Dr Delwyn Goodrick, February 2012.
  4. Evaluation of the Youth Connections Specialised Services Program, Atelier, June 2012.
  5. A Curate's Egg: Good Practice in School-to-Work Transitions, Professor Richard Sweet, August 2012.
  6. Insights into Inactive Young Australians, A Qualitative Research Report for the Department of Education, Dandolopartners, November 2013.
  7. Reframing School to Work Policy, Issues and Potential Future Directions Paper for the Department of Education, dandolopartners, November 2013.
  8. Social Return on Investment (SROI) analysis of a number of Partnership Broker regions (seven reports produced).
  9. Partnering to improve education and transitions outcomes for young people, Social Ventures Australia, January 2014.

There are no plans for the following programmes to cease:

- i. Young Australian of the Year Award
  - ii. Youth category of the National Awards for Local Government
  - iii. The National Clearinghouse Services
  - iv. National Youth Week celebrations
  - v. National Youth Affairs Research Scheme
- f. It is the responsibility of states and territories to ensure that young people have the opportunity to attain a year 12 or equivalent qualification. States and territories and the non-government schooling sector play the key role in meeting the 2015 Year 12 or equivalent retention attainment target.