

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM0745_15

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Question

Courses for Job Seekers aged 18-30

Kevin Andrews told The Australian people under 30 must acquire skills linked to the labour market in order to receive Youth Allowance when they are prevented from receiving the dole (Hobby courses out of bounds under 'earn or learn', Aus, 27/5/2014).

1. Does the Government have a list of eligible courses?
2. If so, will the list be published so that students can make informed decisions?
3. Will participation in language, literacy and numeracy courses be accepted for 'earn or learn' purposes?
4. How often will the list be updated? Will courses be considered for addition at the request of education providers or will the government undertake periodic surveys?
5. The Australian article listed cooking and aromatherapy as two courses that people would be 'banned' from under the learn or earn arrangements because they "hobby" courses – isn't learning how to cook pretty fundamental to the hospitality sector and becoming a chef? Why is cooking "banned"?

Answer

Please refer to the response to question BI2-02 from the Department of Industry.