

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000848

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing

The Coalition's Policy for Schools: Students First - Engaging with Teach for Australia

Question

In relation to The Coalition's Policy for Schools: Students First p13:

Engaging with Teach for Australia to actively recruit for specialist language teachers

- a. How many specialist teachers have been recruited through TFA?
- b. What is the total cost of recruiting these teachers in particular?
- c. Where are they placed? How long have they stayed once appointed?
- d. Is there a target or a goal? Will there be a review of effectiveness – how and when?

Answer

- a. Overall, 26 Associates have taught Languages Other than English (LOTE) in cohorts 2010 to 2015, or nine per cent of all Associates placed. For cohort 2016, 26 qualified candidates were recruited who can teach LOTE.
- b. The Australian Government is providing \$22.40 million in funding from 2013–14 to 2017–18 for TFA for three cohorts of the programme.

With this funding, TFA is contracted to deliver at least 180 Associates over the three cohorts (2015–17). Recruitment of all Associates and related cost, regardless of teaching area, follows the same process.

- c. TFA currently place Associates in disadvantaged schools in Victoria, WA, NT and ACT. Across all cohorts to date (2010 to 2015), 22 Associates taught LOTE in Victoria (eight in regional areas and 14 metropolitan areas) and four in the ACT.

Ninety-six per cent of LOTE Associates have completed or are on track to complete their two-year placement in their school. Of the LOTE Alumni of the programme, 90 per cent continue to teach, with 30 per cent continuing to teach in their placement school and 60 per cent teaching in disadvantaged schools.

- d. TFA's current contract (clause 1.13) states *'In as much as there is the demand from education authorities and disadvantaged schools, You must aim to ensure that at least 40 per cent of participants recruited into the programme specialise in foreign languages.'*

An independent evaluation on the TFA programme is due to commence this financial year. This evaluation will include a review of TFA's recruitment and placement of Associates who specialise in foreign languages.