

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000905

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

Energise Oz Program

Question

1. What was the reason for abolishing the Energise Oz Program?
2. Will the program be replaced?
3. What were the reported completion rates in the interim report?
4. Given that, since the election of this government, there has been a drop of 100,000 apprentices across the country, why is a program that has had such a great success rate not being continued and replicated in other trades – particularly when we have seen apprentice rates plummet?

Answer

1. The funding provided to E-Oz Energy Skills Australia (E-Oz) for the pilot project 'Energy Industry Apprentice Progression Management System' (EIAPMS), was non-ongoing. The funding agreement commenced 15 June 2012 and has been finalised.
2. The EIAPMS project was non-ongoing with no further funding beyond the funding agreement end date of 30 November 2015.
3. The interim and final reports do not include completion data as the participants are still progressing through their apprenticeship and will complete after the funding agreement end date.
4. The learnings from the EIAPMS project, such as the success of mentoring support increasing the apprentice retention rate, have been incorporated into the new Australian Apprenticeship Support Network. The EIAPMS project also helped inform broader Australian Government reforms to the Australian Apprenticeships system designed to make it easier for employers to recruit, train and retain apprentices and for individuals to succeed in their apprenticeship.