

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

**Outcome: Cross Portfolio**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000995**

Senator Rice, Janet provided in writing

***Timber harvest and products***

**Question**

Pertaining to timber harvest and products what education and or training programmes, education or awareness raising activities and/or teaching resources have partly or wholly funded or contributed to by Federal Government Departments in each financial year from 2012 to 2016?

**Answer**

The Department of Education and Training does not directly fund specific timber harvesting and related education programs. The department has supported education and training through the National Workforce Development Fund, the Agriculture in Education program and the Commonwealth Grants Scheme.

**National Workforce Development**

The National Workforce Development funding was provided to Industry Skills Councils to develop training packages, provide skills and training advice to the government and provide support for the national training system. These functions have been reformed and are now undertaken by Skills Service Organisations.

Please refer to SQ16-000996 (Attachments A and B) for a list of projects and funding provided under these programs.

**Agriculture in Education program**

The Agriculture in Education program funded by the department, helps teachers better understand the products and processes associated with food and fibre production and gives students an opportunity to understand the importance of agriculture in the Australian economy. It supports effective implementation of the Australian Curriculum through online teacher support materials and additional curriculum resources. Resources were developed by the Primary Industries Education Foundation of Australia (PIEFA) and Agrifood Skills Australia — some of the resources that were developed included a forestry perspective. A list of resources may be provided by PIEFA.

**Commonwealth Grant Scheme**

Through the Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS), students enrolled in bachelor level forestry studies courses are eligible for support on the same basis as students in other disciplines.

Between 2012 and 2015 (the last year for which full year student data is available), the Australian Government supported students in forestry studies units in the following institutions:

- The University of Melbourne
- Southern Cross University
- Edith Cowan University
- Charles Sturt University
- The Australian National University
- The University of Sydney
- University of the Sunshine Coast
- University of Tasmania