

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-001074

Senator Cameron, Doug provided in writing

Displaced workers due to the closures in the Australia automotive manufacturing industry

Question

1. How many workers have been displaced and are estimated to be displaced from jobs due to the closures in the Australia automotive manufacturing industry?
2. How much commonwealth money has the current government allocated to reskilling and retraining workers from the auto-manufacturing sector? Please provide data for 2014-15 and 2015-16 and so far in 2016-17.
3. How much commonwealth money has the current government spent on reskilling and retraining workers from the auto-manufacturing sector? Please provide data for 2014-15 and 2015-16 and so far in 2016-17.

Answer

The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science is responsible for estimating the number of displaced automotive manufacturing industry workers.

The industry-funded \$30 million *Growth Fund Skills and Training Initiative* (the Growth Fund) is helping to reskill and retrain affected GM Holden and Toyota workers.

As at November 2016, GM Holden had contributed \$7 million to the Growth Fund, with another \$3.5 million to be contributed in 2016-17. Toyota had contributed \$3.28 million, with a further \$8.15 million to be contributed in 2016-17.

Under the Growth Fund, the Australian Government agreed to fund Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) liabilities associated with GM Holden and Toyota workers who receive training in a field not related to their employment. Up to \$31.6 million of Government funds have been allocated for this purpose over five years from 2015–16.

In 2014–15, Holden provided \$2.0 million of transitional services to workers under a Deed arrangement while the Growth Fund special account was being established. In 2015-16, the Government paid \$148,000 and \$2.090 million in 2016–17 for FBT liabilities incurred by GM Holden and Toyota.