

## Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2012-2013

#### Outcome 3 - Employment

DEEWR Question No. CA0047\_13

Senator Scullion asked on 15 February 2013, Hansard page 52

#### Question

##### Merriman Shearing School Brewarrina

Senator SCULLION: Just as an observation, the shearing schools outcome is very different from the Woolies and Coles outcome. They do not get up in the morning and say, 'One day we will sell enough apples and chops to be able to make our training program bigger.' The organisation is a training program. In some ways you could argue that maybe they did not belong in the IEP in any event, but it works really well, it is Indigenous, and that is all it is going to do. The applicants are unlikely, in my view, ever to be able to, in an unsubsidised sense, get entry to survive the full cost of training. I would be interested, perhaps on notice, to have a look at those other programs. Perhaps you could list some of the other programs that may be available to them. I assume you are in constant conversation about their future. Ms Taylor: Certainly, we are happy to do that.

#### Answer

There are a range of programs that may be able to assist Merriman Shearing School at Brewarrina.

From 1 July 2013 assistance will be available in remote regions through the Remote Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP). The introduction of the RJCP provides an enhanced opportunity to employ Indigenous job seekers from the local remote communities. The funding for RJCP has been sourced from the programs it replaces, including the Indigenous Employment Program (IEP) in remote Australia, and the types of support in remote regions (such as employment preparation, placement and mentoring) currently available through the IEP will be provided by RJCP providers.

There are also the suite of programs under the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Australian Government Skills Connect Program including the National Workforce Development Fund (NWDF) which aims to enhance new and existing workers formal training. The NWDF presently supports a number of projects that are providing training for Indigenous people.

There is also the Australian Government's Regional Development Australia initiative (RDA) which brings together all levels of government to enhance the development of Australia's regions. RDA is administered by the Australian Government Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport.

Regional Education Skills and Jobs (RESJ) Coordinators, funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, could also assist. The RESJs are engaged across the 46 RDA regions that cover non-metropolitan Australia and coordinate and integrate existing programs that include education, skills and jobs activities. Contact details for the RESJ for NSW Far West can be found on the Department's web site.