

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
17 October 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Apprenticeships

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Nash

QUESTION No.: SI-47

- a) How much has been spent on apprenticeship incentives in the last 12 months?
- b) How much has been spent on apprenticeship incentives since the May budget?
- c) With the cut to apprenticeship incentives in the May Budget that saw the first incentive provided after 6 months instead of after 3 months, has the Department received any feedback from Australian Apprenticeship Centres as to the impact of this decision?
- d) How many apprentices have commenced since the May Budget?
- e) Can the Department provide advice on the breakdown by apprenticeship type, for the flow of apprenticeship incentives?
- f) How many mature aged apprentices have commenced in the last 12 months?
- g) How many apprentices are eligible for the Living Away from Home allowance?
- h) How many apprentices have withdrawn from their apprenticeship within the first 12 months, over the last year?
- i) Can we have a breakdown by 2012 commencement of the numbers in each of the apprenticeship trades?

ANSWER

- a) In the 12 months to October 2012 a total of \$1.1 billion has been paid to employers and Australian Apprentices under the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program.
- b) Since the May 2012 Budget \$541.3 million has been paid to employers and Australian Apprentices under the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program.
- c) The Department has not received any feedback from Australian Apprenticeships Centres in relation to this change, nor has the Department identified any change in behaviour in Australian Apprenticeships commencements since the change. Moving the commencement payment to the six month point aims to support employers who make a longer commitment to employing their apprentice.
- d) Approximately 132,800 Australian Apprenticeships commencements have been recorded since May 2012.
- e) Approximately 49 per cent of employer incentives are paid for Australian Apprentices undertaking an apprenticeship, while 51 per cent are paid to those undertaking a traineeship. Data on apprenticeship and traineeship is derived from State and Territory Training Authorities and is not consistently reported across all jurisdictions.

- f) Approximately 56,500 Australian Apprentices aged 45 and over commenced within the 12 months to October 2012.
- g) Approximately 780 Australian Apprentices received Living Away From Home Allowance payments in the 12 months to October 2012.
- h) Approximately 77,400 Australian Apprentices who commenced within the 2010-11 financial year withdrew from their Australian Apprenticeship within the first 12 months.
- i) Approximately 66,400 Australian Apprentices commenced in an eligible qualification leading towards an occupation on the National Skills Needs List (NSNL) within the 2011-12 financial year.

The Department is unable to provide a breakdown of commencements by the individual apprenticeship trade, as one qualification can lead towards multiple occupational outcomes.