

**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

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** AUSTRALIAN WORKFORCE AND PRODUCTIVITY AGENCY

**TOPIC:** AWPA

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Nash.

**QUESTION No.:** SI-48

- a) With the transition from Skills Australia to AWPA, how many additional staff have commenced?
- b) What is the total number of staff now?
- c) What is the current annual wages bill for AWPA?
- d) Regarding the National Workforce Development Fund, what has the take up from small business been?
- e) Do you believe that the 33 per cent contribution required from small business is too great?
- f) Do you believe that the process of allocating funding, with Industry Skills Councils having initial responsibility for which funding applications progress to the next stage- is working well?
- g) Have you received any complaints from organisations who believe they have been unfairly excluded early on in the process?
- h) How much has been allocated to date to industry?
- i) Can you provide a breakdown by industry type on where the money has flowed?
- j) Is the NWDF scheduled to undergo an ANAO audit in the next year?

**ANSWER**

- a) Fourteen additional staff have commenced with AWPA.
- b) Total staff number is 39.
- c) The annual wages bill is \$5,060,748.
- d) Sixty per cent of National Workforce Development Fund projects approved in 2011-12 involve a small business.
- e) The proportion of funding contribution is a matter of government policy.
- f) Yes. The Industry Skills Councils have good knowledge of the skills needs of their industries. Their role can help to ensure that the funding is directed to industry's skilling priorities and support employers in making applications to the fund.
- g) No.
- h) As at 30 June 2012 the Government had allocated \$174 million for 498 projects.

i)

<b>Sector</b>	<b>\$</b>
Aged Care	\$18,041,370
Construction	\$33,618,845
Infrastructure	\$4,641,234
Resources	\$40,683,555
Structural Adjustment	\$14,531,703
Other	\$62,236,338
Total	\$173,753,045

j) No formal advice of an ANAO audit of the NWDF in 2012-13 has been received.