

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: All

Output Group: All

DEST Question No. E730_04

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Regional Employment Assistance:

Could the Department provide a list of all employment, education and training assistance programs targeted to unemployed persons in regional and rural Australia and the forward estimates for each of these programs?

Could the Department provide an update on each of the programs and explain how it operates in relation to the type of assistance provide to the target group?

How many participants have gone through each program since its commencement?

Can the department provide an itemised breakdown of where the funding has gone eg: advertising costs, Centrelink staff, external service providers or organisations etc?

Will there be funding continuing to these programs beyond 2004/2005? If not please outline the reasons why the programs will no longer be funded?

What has been the progress of each program, including any employment outcomes (full time, part time and casual employment outcomes) by gender, equity, age and target group? (*Take on notice if necessary*)

Answer:

Regional Employment Assistance

The Department does not administer any employment, education and training assistance programmes that specifically target unemployed persons in regional and rural Australia.

The Department administers a range of programmes which may be available to eligible people in regional and rural Australia and an outline of each of these programmes follows.

New Apprenticeships Incentives Programme

The New Apprenticeships Incentives Programme provides financial incentives to employers who take on and train New Apprentices (apprentices and trainees). New Apprenticeships provide career opportunities in a broad range of industries and occupations. New Apprenticeships also provide added flexibility and options for

employers and their New Apprentices to select the training provider of their choice. Training can be on-the-job, off-the-job or a combination of both.

Rural and Regional Skills Shortage Special Commencement Incentive

The purpose of the Rural and Regional Skills Shortage Special Commencement Incentive is to boost training in rural and regional Australia by providing a special commencement incentive for a rural or regional employer who employs a New Apprentice at the Certificate III or IV level in an eligible skills shortage package.

Further information on the New Apprenticeships Incentives Programme is available at www.newapprenticeships.gov.au.

Group Training

Group Training is an arrangement whereby an organisation employs apprentices and trainees under an Apprenticeship/Traineeship Training Contract and places them with host employers. The organisation provides for continuity of their employment, additional care and support, and manages their training. There are Group Training Organisations located in most regional centres.

Group Training New Apprenticeships Targeted Initiatives Programme (TIP)

TIP is designed to increase New Apprenticeships in critical, challenging and under-served markets through group training arrangements.

New Apprenticeships Access Programme (NAAP)

NAAP provides assistance to obtain and maintain a New Apprenticeship to people who experience barriers to skilled employment. Participants receive nationally recognised vocational training that is linked to a New Apprenticeship pathway, job search assistance and general support.

Further information is available at the NAAP website at: <http://naap.dest.gov.au> or by phoning the NAAP Hotline on 1800 282 882.

Basic IT Enabling Skills (BITES) for Older Workers Programme

BITES provides older workers with the opportunity to undergo nationally recognised training in information technology. It is designed to help low-income, mature age (45 and over) job seekers gain nationally recognised skills in information and communication technology, in order for them to operate personal computers effectively at a basic level in the workforce.

Further information is available on the BITES website: <http://bites.dest.gov.au/> or by phoning the BITES Hotline on 1800 800 618.

Language, Literacy and Numeracy Programme (LLNP)

LLNP provides basic language, literacy and numeracy assistance to job seekers. The programme has been designed to help remove a major barrier to employment and improve participants' daily lives.

Further information is available at <https://llnp.dest.gov.au/>.

Workplace English Language and Literacy (WELL) Programme

The main aim of WELL is to provide workers with English language, literacy and numeracy skills. Language and literacy training is integrated with vocational training to enable workers to meet their current and future employment and training needs.

Further information is available at: <http://www.dest.gov.au/ty/well/default.htm>.

Vocational Education and Training Priority Places Programme

The Australian Government is establishing a new programme to directly purchase vocational education and training places for people with a disability, older workers and parents returning to the workforce.

In March 2004, the Department advertised for tenders from suitably qualified organisations for the provision of broker services to manage this new programme. It is expected that contracts will be signed with successful tenderers by late May 2004. As this is a new programme, places will not be available until July 2004.

For more details, see the Minister's media release at:

http://www.dest.gov.au/Ministers/Media/Nelson/2004/02/N613_20040209.asp