

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2
Output Group: 2.2 – New Apprenticeships.

DEST Question No. E828_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Scholarships for New Apprentices in SMEs

How will this program be administered? Please provide the relevant guidelines.

Please ensure that the information provided includes:

- How scholarships are allocated to individual students.
- How SMEs are selected and by whom.
- How skill shortage areas have been determined and any mechanisms for review and updating of these areas.

Answer:

Commonwealth Trade Learning Scholarships

The Commonwealth Trade Learning Scholarship will be administered under the New Apprenticeships Incentives Programme. The New Apprenticeships Incentives Programme guidelines have not yet been updated to include the Commonwealth Trade Learning Scholarship provisions at this time. However, it is the intention of the Department that the updated guidelines will encompass the following provisions:

- the Scholarships will be available to New Apprentices employed by small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in an identified skill shortage qualification at the end of their first and second years of their New Apprenticeships;
- for the purpose of the Scholarship, SMEs are defined as an employer with 500 or fewer employees. Employer size data is collected by New Apprenticeships Centres at the time the New Apprentice commences the New Apprenticeship. An exemption to this definition will apply to Group Training Organisations (GTOs) who are compliant with the National Standards for GTOs to allow New Apprentices in their employ to receive the Scholarship irrespective of the size of the organisation;
- the National and State Skill Shortage List is used to determine skill shortage areas. The list is based on labour market research undertaken by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and is updated annually. Consultation with relevant Industry Skills Councils is currently being conducted to accurately map New Apprenticeship qualifications to the occupations appearing on the National and State Skill Shortage List.