

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations

DEEWR Question No.EW1037_11

Senator Ryan provided in writing.

Question

GRANTS TO THE UNION EDUCATION FOUNDATION

"With reference to the grants to the 2009 and 2010 grants to the Union Education Fund worth \$2.5m and \$10m respectively – were these grants put out to tender? Can you provide a breakdown on what the Union Education Fund are to deliver for the funds that they received? What are their performance measures and what is the Department's oversight of the expenditure? "

Answer

In April 2009 the Government invited 31 employer/industry organisations, the Union Education Fund(TUEF)and JobWatchto apply for funding under the Fair Work Education and Information Program (FWEIP). TUEF was initially granted \$2.5 million, but this was reduced to \$1.5 million at TUEF's request because the cost of delivering the services was lower than had been anticipated.

Under the FWEIP,TUEF delivered 786 information sessions targeting employees and developed education materials including an information booklet, fact sheets and web based material. The Department assessed TUEF's effectiveness against measures such as the number of activities delivered, participation levels and participant feedback.

In January 2010 the Government provided a one off grant of \$10 million over 5 years to TUEF to deliver training courses for employee representatives under the National Workplace Education Program (NWEP). The courses are designed to foster a cooperative workplace relations environment by improving the skills and knowledge of employee representatives about the Fair Work system. The NWEP commenced on 27 May 2010 and will be completed by 30 June 2015.

Performance requirements and accountabilities for the NWEParé set out in the Funding Agreement. A copy of the agreement was provided to the Committee in response to Budget Estimates 2010-11 Question No.[EW0224 11](#).

TUEF has provided the Department with an initial progress report for the period 27 May 2010 to 30 December 2010outlining their achievements against an agreed Project Plan.To date, significant effort has been expended on development of the program curriculum and design of an on-line education system, and TUEF have delivered 41 planned training courses and 65 'on demand' training courses in the reporting period. Courses have been delivered in all states and territories and have covered 17 industries. One thousand, four hundred and sixty people have participated in training courses overall and feedback indicates that the majority of course participants rated training courses as very good or better.