

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0865_13

Senator Nash provided in writing.

Question

National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions

1. Funds for Career Development

What are the total funds allocated for career development under the National Partnership on youth attainment?

2. Termination Date

Do the initiatives under the National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions terminate on 31 December this year?

3. Post-termination

What initiatives will replace the National Career development initiatives after this date?

4. Expenditure to Date

What amount of the total funds allocated under the program for career development has been spent?

5. Projected Expenditure

Will the total funds be spent by 31 December 2013?

6. Regional Targeting

Have any of the career development initiatives been aimed specifically at rural students, who we know are less likely to further their career through tertiary studies than their metropolitan counterparts?

7. Industry Targeting

Are any of the initiatives aimed at encouraging students into careers in areas where there is a labour/skills shortage, for eg. Agriculture?

8. International Research

In light of the Government's Asian White Paper which states 'we look to measure our performance against standards of excellence in the region', how heavily does the Department look to examples of career development activities in our neighbouring regions when developing policy initiatives?

9. Career Advisers in Schools

Korea has various career development initiatives which among others include placing career advisers in schools. Is there a similar initiative in Australia to ensure trained career advisers are available to school students?

Answer

1. \$30 million is currently allocated for career development under the National Partnership.
2. The National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions ceases on 31 December 2013.
3. The future of all initiatives currently under the National Partnership, including career development initiatives, are being considered by the Australian Government.
4. Approximately \$20.8 million of the allocated funds have been spent as at March 2013.
5. Yes. The Government is considering the implementation of a National Career Development Strategy and associated career development activity.
6. Key career development products such as the Job Guide and myfuture are accessible by all students including those from regional and remote locations. Additionally, program elements of the National Partnership provide significant support to rural students. For example, some 52 per cent of the schools in partnerships supported through the School Business Community Partnership Brokers program are from regional or remote locations, while approximately 70 per cent of young people supported through the Youth Connections program are from these locations.
7. The 2012 Job Guide was themed around the Year of the Farmer and focused on the variety of careers available in agriculture, farming and related businesses. Almost 1000 partnerships supported through the School Business Community Partnership Brokers Program are supporting business engagement with young people and providing quality workplace and community learning opportunities. In many cases, these partnerships are supporting industry workforce development needs and addressing skill shortages. For example, 30 partnerships involving approximately 120 partners are working to develop learning and employment pathways within the aged care industry, an area of growth experiencing increasing skill shortages. Similarly, Partnership Brokers are supporting approximately 40 partnerships with a focus on agriculture, involving almost 300 partner organisations.
8. International research forms part of the general policy development process. In the career development area, the Department supports international sharing of best practice and collaboration through its membership of the Board of the International Centre for Career Development and Public Policy.
9. The provision of career advice in schools is the responsibility of state and territory governments. Under the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions, states and territories receive Maximising Engagement, Attainment and Successful Transitions (MEAST) funding of \$106.4 million over 4 years to implement strategies to address a range of reform areas including career development related initiatives.

In their Implementation Plans for the National Partnership, jurisdictions have identified career development activities they will undertake, including any initiatives directed toward career advisers in schools. Implementation Plans are available on the Standing Council on Federal Financial Relations website at www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au. Also available on the DEEWR website are annual reports from jurisdictions which report on the activities funded under MEAST, including career development activities.