

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 1

Output Group: 1 4 – Assistance for transition through and from school

DEST Question No. E034_05

Senator Crossin asked a question on notice in EWRE page 136.

Question:

1. Do you know how many transition staff have been with either the CATs or POEMs programmes or the JPP since they started?
2. What is the ratio of staff to clients in those programmes?
3. Could you also let me know whether that ratio has increased or decreased since the commencement of the programme?

Answer:

Career and Transition (CAT) Pilot

1. No.
2. The evaluation report undertaken by Miles Morgan Australia Pty Ltd stated that between April 2002 and April 2003, the average CAT Adviser to Participant ratio was 1:1113. If the Brotherhood of St Laurence project is excluded, because it is a parent-only project, the average ratio of CAT Adviser to Participant is 1:1249.
3. No.

Partnership Outreach Education Model (POEM)

1. No.
2. A number of POEM projects report staff to student ratios of around 1:4 or 6, consisting of staff employed under POEMs, personnel provided by project partners, and volunteers and tertiary students on work experience. Some projects deliver education and training with a staff/student ratio of 1:12 or 15.
3. While the Department does not keep statistics on personnel engaged, Departmental staff have close working relationships with POEM providers and note anecdotally that turnover within POEMs from April/May 2002 to June 2004 has not been high.

Jobs Pathway Programme (JPP)

1. No.
2. The ratio of JPP provider staff to JPP participants varies in accordance with several factors such as originally tendered prices and decisions made independently of the Department by JPP provider management. JPP provider staffing levels are monitored regularly through site visits. Unless providers are having difficulties meeting performance expectations, DEST would consider staffing levels to be the province of JPP providers. An analysis of a sample of JPP providers across states using a cross section of small, medium and large JPP providers shows that providers can have a JPP staff to JPP participant ratio ranging from 1 to 45 up to 1 to 217.
3. No.