

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2

Output Group: 2.2 – New Apprenticeships

DEST Question No. E157_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Refers to DEST Question No E789_05

Question:

- (a) Why are employers not obliged to report the completion status of their New Apprentices irrespective of any completion incentives they may attract?
- (b) Does DEST believe that completion data on New Apprenticeships is useful information? If so, what action is being taken to compile completion data on New Apprenticeships? When will valid and reliable data on New Apprenticeships completion rates be available?

Answer:

Reporting of New Apprenticeships completions and calculation of completion rates

- (a) Employers are obliged to report the completion status of their New Apprentices to State and Territory Governments who are responsible for the administration and operation of New Apprenticeships arrangements in their jurisdictions. States and Territories report this data to the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) under the Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Statistical Standard (AVETMISS). In addition to this requirement, DEST collects information on New Apprenticeships completions when employers lodge a claim for a completion incentive with their New Apprenticeships Centre.
- (b) The Department believes that collecting New Apprenticeships completion data provides vital information which assists in the management of New Apprenticeships and broader Vocational and Technical Education systems. Although the Department itself does not collect data on completion rates, the Australian Government through the funding agreement with the State and Territory governments funds the NCVER, whose responsibility as the national provider of statistically valid data on New Apprenticeships includes reporting on completion data sourced from the State and Territory Training Authorities. The NCVER is currently undertaking ongoing work into the quantitative and qualitative aspects of New Apprenticeships completions, including the calculation of completion rates.