

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. E282_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

- (a) How many additional New Apprentices are expected to participate in this program?
- (b) Is this training 'fee for service' or is the training Trade subsidised by the government?
- (c) Who will be providing the training? Private training organisations or TAFE? Will this be subject to an open tender process?
- (d) What is the \$6.3 million being spent on?
- (e) What sort of training will be undertaken?
- (f) Are these traditional trade apprenticeships, or other forms of traineeships? Have these training areas been defined? If not, how will they be defined and when? Will a list of training areas be published? If so when, if not why not?
- (g) What areas of regional Australia will these New Apprentices be located? Have these locations been defined? If not, how will they be defined and when? Will a list of locations be published? If so when?

Answer:

Trade Skills Training Visa

- (a) This is a new program with participation being driven by skills needs, the supply of Australian New Apprentices in specific occupations in regional and rural areas and the demand by non-citizens for the New Apprenticeships vacancies on a full fee- paying basis.

The numbers are unknown, but DIMIA has budgeted for 250 in the first year of operation of this new visa category.

- (b) It is 'fee for service'.
- (c) Training will be provided the same way as training is provided for all New Apprentices, through a State or Territory Government approved Registered Training Organisation, which could be private or public.
- (d) \$6.3 million is the anticipated DEST expenditure on New Apprenticeships Centres' fees for service and New Apprenticeships employer incentives associated with the Trade Skills Training Visa.
- (e) Standard New Apprenticeships training will be undertaken.

- (f) The New Apprenticeships will be Certificate III and IV level trade New Apprenticeships. The New Apprentices will be placed in rural and regional Australia and with employers with skills needs they are unable to fill from within Australia. The list of eligible occupations is still being formulated, but will be in place by November 2005 when the program commences.
- (g) The location of the New Apprentices will depend on the location of their sponsors, but the program is available only in regional and rural Australia.