

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 2  
**Output Group:** 2.2 – New Apprenticeships

#### DEST Question No. E393\_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### Question:

Please itemize the number of New Apprenticeships Centres operated by the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) and/or its state branches, and/or its members including:

- (a) The date of approval.
- (b) Value or Cost of the New Apprenticeships Centre.
- (c) Number of employees employed as a result of the New Apprenticeships Centre.
- (d) The number of apprentices signed by the apprenticeships centres and placed with employers.
- (e) The number of apprentices signed by the NACs who completed their apprenticeships.
- (f) The number of apprentices signed up by the New Apprenticeships Centre who receive employment after ceasing their training.

Please provide completion rates for New Apprenticeships by small area, state, age and trade.

What quality assurance and monitoring for New Apprenticeships does the Department currently undertake?

What requirements or funding conditions does the Commonwealth impose on states and territories to ensure that New Apprenticeships are in areas of national skill shortage?

Does the Department impose conditions regarding New Apprenticeships requiring states and territories to monitor formal training and employment outcomes?

#### Answer:

*New Apprenticeships Centres (NACs) operated by the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI)*

The following organisations operated by ACCI or its State Branches hold contracts to provide New Apprenticeships Support Services (NASS):

State	NAC Legal Name
NSW/ACT	ABEN New Apprenticeships Centre Pty Ltd
Victoria	Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Queensland	Queensland Apprenticeship Services Pty Ltd
Western Australia	CCI Training Services Pty Ltd
South Australia	South Australian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc
Northern Territory	Top End Group Training Pty Ltd (through a consortium member)

- (a) All current New Apprenticeships Centres are contracted to provide NASS services from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2006.

(b) The total contract value (GST inclusive) for each of the ACCI affiliated NACs is listed below:

NAC Legal Name	Contract Region	Contract Value
ABEN New Apprenticeships Centre Pty Ltd	Australian Capital Territory	\$990,000
	Hunter & North Coast NSW	\$9,982,500
	Illawarra & SE NSW	\$3,993,000
	Riverina	\$2,541,000
	Sydney	\$22,968,000
	Western NSW	\$4,791,600
Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Geelong	\$2,431,440
	Gippsland	\$2,433,200
	Melbourne	\$9,282,900
	Victorian Central Highlands	\$5,346,000
Queensland Apprenticeship Services Pty Ltd	Brisbane	\$28,495,500
	Central Queensland	\$4,864,200
	Northern Queensland	\$7,381,000
	Northern Qld – Torres Strait	\$198,000
	South Queensland	\$6,864,000
CCI Training Services Pty Ltd	Central & South East WA	\$3,013,989
	Northern WA	\$1,744,941
	Perth	\$6,737,500
	Southern WA	\$1,940,400
South Australian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc	Adelaide	\$8,712,000
	South Australia Country	\$3,861,000
Top End Group Training Pty Ltd (through a consortium member)	Northern Territory	\$7,932,000

(c) DEST does not hold any information on the total number of employees employed by New Apprenticeships Centres.

(d) As at 7 January 2005 the listed NACs had achieved the following numbers of New Apprenticeships Commencements:

NAC Legal Name	Contract Region	Comms
ABEN New Apprenticeships Centre Pty Ltd	Australian Capital Territory	816
	Hunter & North Coast NSW	6,286
	Illawarra & SE NSW	2,574
	Riverina	812
	Sydney	15,811
	Western NSW	2,547
Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Geelong	2,074
	Gippsland	1,630
	Melbourne	7,738
	Victorian Central Highlands	4,836
Queensland Apprenticeship Services Pty Ltd	Brisbane	22,638
	Central Queensland	4,302
	Northern Queensland	5,615
	Northern Qld – Torres Strait	149
	South Queensland	4,887
CCI Training Services Pty Ltd	Central & South East WA	2,235
	Northern WA	1,519
	Perth	7,364

	Southern WA	1,859
South Australian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc	Adelaide	5,879
	South Australia Country	3,014
Top End Group Training Pty Ltd (through a consortium member)	Northern Territory	2,898

Source: DEST Training & Youth Internet Management System (TYIMS) data as at 7/1/2005

(e) As at 7 January 2005, the following numbers of New Apprentices with the listed NACs who Commenced on or after 1 July 2003 are recorded as having successfully completed their New Apprenticeship. (Note that as most New Apprentices commencing on or after 1 July 2003 have an expected end date in the future, this data cannot be used to calculate a valid completion rate).

NAC Legal Name	Contract Region	Completions
ABEN New Apprenticeships Centre Pty Ltd	Australian Capital Territory	33
	Hunter & North Coast NSW	134
	Illawarra & SE NSW	49
	Riverina	9
	Sydney	259
	Western NSW	52
Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Geelong	171
	Gippsland	136
	Melbourne	530
	Victorian Central Highlands	271
Queensland Apprenticeship Services Pty Ltd	Brisbane	2,470
	Central Queensland	277
	Northern Queensland	541
	Northern Qld – Torres Strait	8
	South Queensland	418
CCI Training Services Pty Ltd	Central & South East WA	186
	Northern WA	98
	Perth	488
	Southern WA	165
South Australian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc	Adelaide	148
	South Australia Country	119
Top End Group Training Pty Ltd (through a consortium member)	Northern Territory	173

Source: DEST TYIMS data as at 7/1/2005

(f) DEST does not hold any data about employment outcomes relating to individual New Apprentices or NACs.

#### *Completion rates*

As a large proportion of New Apprenticeships are traditional trades apprenticeships with a three or four year duration, it is not as yet possible to calculate a valid completion rate for New Apprentices who commenced under the current contract (1 July 2003 to 30 June 2006).

### *Quality assurance and monitoring*

The provision of quality assurance and monitoring throughout the term of the New Apprentice Support Services contract (1/7/03-30/6/06) is conducted by the Department. The Department has developed the Performance Management Framework which details how the five Key Performance Indicators (KPI), comprising a total of 23 measures, are to be monitored, assessed and reported on a bi-annual basis.

The KPIs are:

1. New Apprenticeships Support Services and the New Apprenticeships Incentives Programme are administered in an accurate and timely manner.
2. Eighty percent employer and New Apprentice satisfaction level with the provision of New Apprenticeships Support Services.
3. Increase in the retention rate of New Apprenticeships at the six-month point of the New Apprenticeship and increase in the completion rates of New Apprenticeships.
4. Improvement in the number of Indigenous Australians and people with a disability undertaking New Apprenticeships. Commencements in accordance with contracted profiles for industry, Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) levels and age of New Apprentices.
5. Contracted minimum commencement numbers are achieved against milestone targets.

The KPIs are measured through six-monthly file monitoring visits, two surveys of employers and New Apprentices satisfaction with New Apprenticeships Centres, ongoing structured desktop analysis of the New Apprenticeships Training and Youth Information Management System (TYIMS) database, and targeted monitoring undertaken by DEST State Office staff.

Structured desktop analysis includes the production of a monthly New Apprenticeships Support Services Performance Report for DEST executives which analyses a range of data on the operation of the programme from the TYIMS database.

Targeted monitoring involves DEST State Office staff contacting a sample of employers and New Apprentices soon after they have been visited by a New Apprenticeships Centre representative to confirm service levels set by operating guidelines have been met.

The Department's Audit and Investigations Group also reviews in detail the application of the New Apprenticeships Incentives Programme and New Apprenticeships Support Services Operating Guidelines by auditing four New Apprenticeships Centres annually.

### *New Apprenticeships funding conditions*

The National Vocational Education and Training (VET) planning arrangements under the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) Agreement provide for a set of agreed annual national priorities to be implemented. For 2005, Australian and State/Territory Ministers have agreed as a priority to 'meet industry skill needs, responding to the evolving needs of existing industries, reducing skill shortages and meeting the needs of new and emerging industries'. State/Territory VET plans must include strategies for dealing with future skill needs and skill shortages. As part of their VET plans, States/Territories are required to provide activity tables detailing the planned numbers of New Apprenticeship commencements and New Apprentices in training for 2005. Under the ANTA Agreement, State/Territory VET plans must be approved by the ANTA Ministerial Council in order for additional Australian Government funds to be paid.

*Monitoring of formal training and employment outcomes*

The framework of key performance measures under the National VET Strategy 2004-2010 provides for surveys of students' employment outcomes. Data is reported annually, including for those VET students who are New Apprentices, in the Student Outcomes Survey series published by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research. Performance in this area is also reported in ANTA's Annual National Report of the Australian Vocational Education and Training System. There are no specific conditions in the ANTA Agreement, however, requiring States and Territories to monitor formal training and employment outcomes for New Apprenticeships.