

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education

DEEWR Question No.EW0516_11

Senator Nash provided in writing.

Question

PRODUCTIVITY PLACES PROGRAM

How many retrenched workers benefited from the structural adjustment element of the Productivity Places Program? This program has now seen cuts of \$80 million over 5 years. Is it then fair to say that the uptake fell well short of target? Where will this funding be redirected? What was the completion rate for Productivity Places courses undertaken through the Structural Adjustment component of the PPP?

Answer

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations has provided the following response:

- a) How many retrenched workers benefited from the structural adjustment element of the Productivity Places Program?*

As at 17 October 2010, funding was approved for 10,151 training places under the Structural Adjustment Places (SAP) element of the Productivity Places Program (PPP). Of these, approximately 1,800 were for retrenched workers (the remainder being for stood-down workers).

- b) This program has now seen cuts of \$80 million over 5 years. Is it then fair to say that the uptake fell well short of target? Where will this funding be redirected?*

\$80 million was redirected from the PPP appropriation in Budget 2010 to support the Skills for Sustainable Growth package. This redirection of funding is unrelated to the take up levels under the SAP element of the PPP.

- c) What was the completion rate for Productivity Places courses undertaken through the Structural Adjustment component of the PPP?*

The completion rate for SAP participants is 32 per cent. A further 62 per cent are still engaged in training. The remaining 6 per cent have failed to complete successfully.