

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No. EW0616_12

Senator McKenzie provided in writing.

Question

Regional Jobs Plan for Loddon Mallee

Can Skills Australia outline the work completed to date on the Regional Jobs Plan for Loddon Mallee?

Answer

The Regional Education, Skills and Jobs Plan for the Loddon Mallee region is being developed.

The Regional Education, Skills and Jobs Coordinator is identifying priorities, goals and strategies for the region through examining data and existing complementary regional plans; and local engagement.

The Regional Education, Skills and Jobs Coordinator is working with key stakeholders across the region including the Regional Development Australia Committee in Loddon Mallee, Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, and education and training providers including Sunraysia TAFE. The Regional Education, Skills and Jobs Coordinator is also working with industry and local community bodies such as local Indigenous communities and Australian Government service providers including Job Services Australia, Disability Employment Services, Youth Connections, Language, Literacy and Numeracy Program providers and Australian Apprenticeship Centres.

The Regional Education, Skills and Jobs Coordinator has commenced duties on key committees such as the Loddon Mallee Youth Partnerships Governance Group which is focused on improving attainment of Year 12 or its equivalent and the Mildura Interdepartmental Committee focused on improving Indigenous outcomes.

An outcome achieved to address a skill shortage in the region and which supports *Closing the Gap* in education and employment outcomes is the establishment of a pilot for Indigenous students to participate in an Early Childhood Australian School Based Apprenticeship at the Kathleen Kelly Kindergarten in Mildura.