

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

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

Outcome 3 - Tertiary, Skills, International and Indigenous Strategy

DEEWR Question No. EW0852_12

Senator Back asked on 20 October 2011, Hansard page 104

Question

Training initiatives for mature age workers

Senator BACK: Yes, that is the feedback I have had. Can you tell us how many mature age workers have taken up the training initiatives in this last period of time? This is the 'Experience Plus' training program. Would you like to take that on notice? Mr Griew: We will take that on notice because we administer that in cooperation with our colleagues in the employment area and we might want to consult with them to get you that information. Ms Paul: We will get you the whole picture. Senator BACK: As part of that, I would be very keen to find out what figure was budgeted and what has actually been the total cost of the program. What mechanisms, processes or avenues did you use to advertise that program? Mr Griew: We will take that on notice in the same spirit, just to get you the complete answer.

Answer

A total of \$7.7 million is available in administered funds over four years (2010-11 to 2013-14) for Experience+ Training.

To date, take-up for Experience+ Training has been modest but growing strongly. For 2010-2011, 192 applications were approved – this was 49.2 per cent of the planned take up rate for the program's first year. For 2011-12 there have been 196 approvals to 30 November 2011 which is 80.3 per cent of the planned take up.

Since March 2011, the Department has rolled out a communication strategy to promote Experience+, including Experience+ Training. This included a mail-out of program information to over 7,500 employers, an e-mail to Registered Training Organisations; information provided through 20 employer workshops hosted by the Australian Industry Group (two more are scheduled); promotion through a number of conferences and events; and editorial content in a number of relevant newsletters and publications. The Department continues to promote the program through various publications including the Experience + career guide.