

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

**Outcome 2 – Schools and Youth**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0537\_13

**Senator Nash provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Youth Attainment and Transitions Branch**

1. Can the department confirm that the Youth Attainment and Transitions Branch of DEEWR spent approximately \$1 million dollars on consultants?
2. In that time, can the department outline whether any new initiatives have been implemented from what has obviously been a very thorough consultation and policy development process?
3. Can the department provide information regarding the costs that have been incurred by the taxpayer for this year's consultancy fees leading up to the presentation of the long-awaited Green Paper in June of this year?
4. Are there any programs in the pipeline as outlined in the Green Paper to temporarily fill the gap left by those budget cuts made to the National Career Development Element of the National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions, Lighthouse School Funding, Defence Gap Year Program, National Career Development Week or the Careers Advisers industry placements Scholarships?
5. Has the department/Minister received any communication from stakeholders regarding access to careers services and information has suffered since the reductions/cutting of these programs?

**Answer**

1. Yes.
2. The research informed the development of the National Career Development Strategy Green Paper. The Australian Government is now considering responses to the Green Paper.
3. The total cost for consultancy in relation to career development was \$1.322 million (GST inclusive) over two years. This funding was spent on projects including a cost benefit analysis, a literature review and stakeholder consultations on existing activities, qualitative and quantitative market research, examining the cognitive neuroscience implications for career development and developing options for a national career development strategy.

4. Funding for the Lighthouse Schools project ceased prior to the National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions. The Defence Gap Year Program was funded by the Department of Defence and the Defence Jobs website lists alternatives to the Gap Year Program. Funding for National Career Development Week and the Scholarships for Career Advisers Program will be redirected to elements of the National Career Development Strategy that better align with the new strategic direction.
  
5. The Career Industry Council of Australia raised the issue of future funding for career development at a Community Cabinet Meeting in Tasmania in October 2011. DEEWR has not received specific communications from stakeholders indicating that access to career services and information has suffered since the changes to the programs referred to.