

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

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

Outcome 3 – Employment

DEEWR Question No. CA0001_13

Senator Payne provided in writing.

Question:

Funding for Vocational Training and Education Centres

Please outline the funding and arrangements that have existed to date around the proposed Vocational Training and Education Centres, and any budgeted future expenses.

Answer

The Department currently provides funding to a VTEC operated in the Pilbara by Fortescue Metals Group, through the Indigenous Employment Program (IEP). Total funding of \$9,558,900 has been approved for the FMG VTEC from the IEP since 2006, to support pre-vocational and work skills training and support for employment with FMG and its associated contractors.

Minister Collins received a letter from Andrew Forrest in March 2012 where he stated there was a need for four demonstration VTEC sites but would provide further information. Minister Collins has not received this information.

The Department has not received a formal proposal to fund any further VTECs, and no budget allocation has been made.