

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017**

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000093

Senator Cameron, Doug asked on 01 March 2017, Proof Hansard page 136.

Trade support loans

Question

Senator CAMERON: If these apprentices were paid a decent rate of pay, would they need this?

Senator Birmingham: Senator, you are now going to an industrial relations matter that sits within the remit of the Fair Work Commission. It is not for our department to determine salary rates.

Senator CAMERON: But you are dealing with the consequences of it.

Senator Birmingham: There were, I think, some salary determinations over recent years, particularly in relation to mature-age apprentices, from memory, that saw some significant increases in payments.

Senator CAMERON: Are there any statistics as to how many of these trade loans have gone to apprentices covered by enterprise agreements?

Senator Birmingham: We would need to take that on notice.

Answer

Departmental figures as of 10 March 2017 indicates that five per cent of training contracts have been entered into by Australian Apprentices who have taken out trade support loans and who are covered by enterprise agreements.