

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

**Outcome: Cross Portfolio**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000996**

Senator Rice, Janet provided in writing

***Timber harvest and timber products - funding***

**Question**

What funding has been provided by Federal Government Departments in each financial year from 2012 to 2016 to any external organisations in order to undertake activities relevant to timber harvest and timber products education and/or training programmes, education or awareness raising activities, or teaching resources?

If so, what are the names of recipient organisations, amounts and purpose of the funding including the names or titles of relevant feasibility studies, programmes, events, initiatives, or resources undertaken or proposed.

**Answer**

The Department of Education and Training provided funding through the National Workforce Development Fund, the Industry Workforce Training measure, the Agriculture in Education initiative and the Commonwealth Grants Scheme.

**National Workforce Development Fund and Industry Workforce Training measure**

Through the National Workforce Development Fund the total funding approved is \$2,560,587, further details of recipients and funding amounts can be found at **Attachment A**. A list of projects funded through the Industry Workforce Training measure can be found at **Attachment B**.

**Agriculture in Education**

Under the Agriculture in Education initiative, the department provided funding of \$2 million over two years (2013–14 and 2014–15) for online teacher support materials and curriculum resources to help teachers better understand the products and processes associated with food and fibre production and ensure that all students have an opportunity to understand their importance in the Australian economy. Some materials developed as part of this initiative included references to timber production. For example Year 5/6 PDF and video *Exploring sustainable practices in food and fibre production* and a Year 7/8 PDF and video *Investigating key Australian fibre production practices in the cotton, timber and wool sectors*.

The \$2 million funding was provided for all materials developed through the Agriculture in Education initiative (\$1.095 million to the Primary Industries Education Foundation of Australia, \$0.705 million to Food and Agribusiness Solutions formerly Agrifood Skills Australia and \$200,000 to Education Services Australia).

### Commonwealth Grants Scheme (CGS).

The department provides funding for units of study classified as forestry studies under cluster 8 of CGS, further information on CGS clusters can be found on the department's website (<https://www.education.gov.au/funding-clusters-and-indexed-rates>). This is the same rate as other agriculture, environment and related disciplines as well as dentistry, medicine and veterinary studies.

From 2012 to 2015 the following CGS funding was provided for Commonwealth supported students undertaking a forestry studies\* unit as part of their course:

	2012	2013	2014	2014
Cluster rate	\$20,284	\$21,075	\$21,707	\$22,097
<b>Total CGS funding for students undertaking forestry studies*</b>	<b>\$1,359,028</b>	<b>\$1,074,825</b>	<b>\$1,389,248</b>	<b>\$1,149,044</b>

Data for 2016 is not yet available.

\*Please note that these are indicative figures only based on the number of equivalent full time students enrolled in forestry studies units in each year. It includes students in other disciplines (e.g. economics, art) that undertake forestry units as part of their course.

The following Universities offer units classified as forestry studies for Commonwealth supported students:

CGS Funding for forestry studies	2012	2013	2014	2015	TOTAL
The University of Melbourne	\$689,656	\$674,400	\$846,573	\$861,783	<b>\$3,072,412</b>
Southern Cross University	\$405,680	\$126,450	\$347,312	\$132,582	<b>\$1,012,024</b>
Edith Cowan University	-	-	-	-	-
Charles Sturt University	-	-	-	-	-
The Australian National University	-	-	-	-	-
The University of Sydney	-	-	-	-	-
University of the Sunshine Coast	-	-	-	-	-
University of Tasmania	-	-	-	-	-

Note: Data cannot be provided for institutions that have fewer than five students due to privacy requirements.

National Workforce Development Fund				
Recipient Organisation	Purpose of Training	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
		Amount of Government Contribution Approved	Amount of Government Contribution Approved	Amount of Government Contribution Approved
Forestry Tasmania	Certificate III in Forest Growing and Management Certificate IV in Forest Operations Diploma of Forest and Forest Products	\$93,840		
West Coast Timbers	Certificate III in Sawmilling and Processing	\$24,120		
Allied Timber Products Pty Ltd	Certificate III in Sawmilling and Processing	\$5,360		
NSW Forest Products Association	Certificate III in Sawmilling and Processing	\$50,585		
Nannup Timber Processing	Certificate III in Sawmilling and Processing	\$150,750		\$8,830
Killin Management Pty Ltd	Certificate IV in Forest Operations	\$5,946		
The Frame & Truss Manufacturers Association of Australia Ltd	Certificate III in Timber Manufactured Products	\$4,020		
Forests NSW	Certificate IV in Forest Operations	\$49,313		
Greensill Bros Pty Ltd	Certificate IV in Forest Operations Diploma of Forest and Forest Products	\$68,817		
Coastal Timbers Pty Ltd	Certificate IV in Timber Processing		\$12,060	
Softwood Logging Services Pty Ltd	Certificate III in Harvesting and Haulage		\$115,909	
Auswest Timbers Pty Ltd	Certificate III in Sawmilling and Processing			\$101,622
Forestworks Industry Skills Council	Cross-national program approach to promote innovation and learning		\$1,869,415	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$452,752</b>	<b>\$1,997,384</b>	<b>\$110,452</b>

Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding

Industry Workforce Training						
Recipient Organisation	Purpose of Funding	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
ForestWorks Industry Skills Council	To develop Training Packages related to the forest and wood Industry.	\$2,951,095	\$2,951,095	\$2,951,095	\$2,951,095	\$938,985
Skills Impact Skills Service Organisation	To develop Training Packages in the forestry and timber industry as well as Agriculture; Horticulture, Conservation and Land management; Animal Care; Meat Processing; Seafood; Food and Pharmaceutical; Racing; Pulp and paper.					\$4,606,425