

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates 26 May-6 June 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: Vocational Training and Employment Centres

Senator: Senator Cory Bernardi

Question reference number: 257

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. Can you provide an update on the implementation of the Vocational Training and Employment Centres?
2. Do you have any data from the three Centres that are up and running?
3. Has the Government based its VTEC programme on the Fortescue Metals Group model? If so, why?

Answer:

1. As at 2 July 2014, 21 Vocational Training and Employment Centres (VTECs) were established. These are in in the Sydney, Hunter, South Coast NSW, Brisbane, north and central Queensland, Perth, the Pilbara, Darwin, Kalgoorlie, Alice Springs, the Barkly region of the Northern Territory, the Kimberley and Adelaide regions.
2. The first three VTECs in Sydney, Perth and Brisbane have been running since the beginning of the year. As at 30 June 2014, these three VTECs collectively had 85 Indigenous job seekers commence into the programme, 70 of these jobseekers had commenced training for a guaranteed job and 38 had been placed into employment. It is too early to report on 26 week employment outcomes. Data for the remaining 18 VTECs is not currently available.
3. The design of the Government's VTEC programme was informed by a number of employer demand led initiatives, including the Fortescue Metals Group model, which have been shown to be successful in delivering sustainable job outcomes for Indigenous Australians.