

Standing Committees on Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2020 - 2021

Outcome: Schools

Department of Education, Skills and Employment Question No. SQ21-000012

Senator Louise Pratt provided in writing.

Youth Portfolio

Question

- 1) How much is currently allocated to the Youth portfolio? How many FTE in the Department are currently allocated to the Youth portfolio?
- 2) What is the Youth Taskforce's budget for 2020/21? How much has been spent to date?
- 3) What is the current status of the Youth Policy Framework report? How much has been spent on it to date, and when will it be released publicly?

Answer

1. The department assumed responsibility for youth affairs and programmes, including youth transitions, on 18 March 2021.

The department has a five-person team to coordinate whole-of-government youth policy.

In addition, a youth employment area with 24.1 ASL delivers a range of youth targeted measures.

The Government is investing over a billion dollars across three key youth employment measures over the Forward Estimates. This includes:

- \$780.9m for the Transition to Work service over four years from 2020–21
- \$699.3m for the Youth Jobs PaTH program over four years from 2020–21
- \$21.9m for the Faster Connections and Greater Support for Young People measure in 2020–21 and 2021–22.

There are also substantial measures in the department benefiting young people from the Skills and Training Group in relation to apprenticeships and the National Careers institute, and from Treasury/ATO for the jobmaker Hiring Credit.

2. The Department of Health provided \$1.2 million in departmental funding to support the work of the Youth Taskforce for two years 2019–2020 and 2020–21. These funds were committed prior to the transfer of functions to the department.
3. Following transfer of responsibility for the youth function to the department on 18 March 2021, the department is working to finalise the Framework.