

**Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs**

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

**Outcome 3 - Employment**

**DEEWR Question No. CA0035\_13**

**Senator Payne provided in writing.**

**Question**

**IEP funding over the last few years**

Coles is certainly one organisation that has had considerable IEP funding over the last few years—I think around 9 contracts. We work with some of those big organisations in different ways: we may fund them directly or we might fund a provider that works with them on whatever their Indigenous employment strategy is—whether it is supporting them with pre-employment training or on-the-job training and mentoring, so a range of things. An organisation like Coles has had, since 2009 when the new IEP commenced, in excess of over \$4 million in support from IEP, so we have done a number of projects with it. As I have said, we cannot guarantee that there is ongoing funding. We would like to see organisations—particularly larger businesses like Coles and Woolworths—really take the opportunity to use the IEP funding to develop the models and to actually test how models work in their context, in their sector or within their organisation, and then look at how they would embed that in their broader workforce strategy and build that into the normal way they go about their business in terms of recruitment, employing people and career development within the organisation. There is no guarantee of any ongoing funding for those kinds of organisations, and we do like to see them investing.." I refer to the answer given in Senate Estimates on Friday, 15 February 2013 from Ms Wood of FaCHSIA, to Senator Scullion. -

Please provide a detailed breakdown of the \$3 million that was granted to Coles under the IEP. - How many projects were funded? - What was the nature of each of the projects? - How much did each project cost? - How many jobseekers were placed in jobs? - How much did each job placement cost?

**Answer**

Since 2009, Coles Supermarkets Australia Ltd has been funded by the Indigenous Employment Program (IEP) for 10 projects to deliver training and employment. The contract value for these projects was just over \$3.2 million and to date there have been 691 commencements into employment.

Coles has benefitted from another IEP project valued at \$1,206,017 to train Indigenous jobseekers and place in to sustainable employment with Woolworths, Dick Smith and Coles

The projects have provided pre-employment training, employment and mentoring services within Coles Supermarkets throughout New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania.

Data on cost per placement is not able to be provided as four of the projects are still current and final expenditure is not yet available.