

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2012-2013

Outcome 3 – Employment

DEEWR Question No. CA0012_13

Senator Scullion asked on 1 June 2012 , Hansard page 49

Question

Remote Youth Leadership and Development Corps

Senator SCULLION: In regard to the, the budget papers relate to local leaders. They state that mentoring is going to be provided by local leaders. In a demographic that stretches from Lightning Ridge to Lajamanu, what do we mean by that term 'local leaders'?

Ms Kidd: As part of the consultation process there was a strong view that there was a role for local elders to be involved in mentoring type roles as part of the model, so we have listed that as a feature. It would obviously depend on the community and how they want to do it, but the provider is responsible for organising the youth corps and would work within the community to work out who would be the most appropriate in the mentoring role.

Senator SCULLION: Are these mentors paid?

Ms Kidd: They would be, yes.

Senator SCULLION: How much will they be paid? Is it a job? Is there a job description for a mentor? There may well be.

Ms Kidd: Again, some of the details of that are still being developed, but it is likely that it would be like an hourly rate through the participation account.

Senator SCULLION: Perhaps you could take on notice how much they get paid, what is the cost and how many mentors in each community? Do you have an indicative number of mentors that will make this all work?

Ms Kidd: I am not sure how much more we could provide on notice at this stage because we are still working through the detail.

Senator SCULLION: Provide as much on notice as you can, Ms Kidd.

Ms Kidd: Sure.

Answer

The Remote Jobs and Communities Program will have the flexibility to encourage local responses to be made to local circumstances. The number of mentors and their role in assisting young people in the Remote Leadership and Development Corps will largely be a matter for local communities and providers. These arrangements may include both paid positions and volunteers. The Department does not have any estimates on how many mentors are required in each community.

DEEWR will not be setting an indicative wage rate for employing mentors. Where mentors are employed, they will be covered by a contractual arrangement between providers and the Commonwealth, and will be in accord with relevant industrial award conditions.