

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 5-6 JUNE 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Better Futures, Local Solutions – Community Innovation through Collaboration measure

Question reference number: HS 44

Senator: Cameron

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Number of pages: 6

Question:

Senator CAMERON: Better Futures, Local Solutions has been set up to engage at the community level with Indigenous unemployed, young unemployed and long-term unemployed. It has been a program that has been very successful—is that correct, Ms Campbell?

Ms Campbell: It depends. In some cases local feedback has been that some of these measures have been successful.

Senator CAMERON: Let us have a look at the Shellharbour project. I understand that you have received reports on these projects. Is that correct?

Ms Campbell: Yes, we have.

Senator CAMERON: Can you, on notice, table those reports from the projects?

Ms Campbell: We will take that question on notice.

Answer:

The attached table outlines the outcomes reported by projects funded under the Better Futures, Local Solutions initiative in Shellharbour, NSW.

Data is from a Host Organisation report to the Department of Human Services. The department does not independently verify this data as the Host Organisation manages projects locally.

SHELLHARBOUR			TOTAL GRANT ALLOCATION (\$ GST EXCLUSIVE)	COMMENTS FROM HOST ORGANISATION
ROUND	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION NAME		
1	Network Shellharbour project Network Shellharbour project targets disadvantaged youth, young parents and families aged to 25 years and their children. It will use individualised case management, partnerships with other community service providers, accredited training, and support in the development of life skills to assist participants and address barriers to education and employment.	Southern Youth & Family Service Association Inc.	\$178,750	<i>As at May 2014:</i> <i>Since commencement of funding:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 82 participants engaged; - 6 participants identify as Indigenous; - 0 returned to school or further study; - 60 participants have achieved a nationally accredited qualification (73.2%); and - 23 participants have gained employment as a result of the programme (28%).
2			\$297,000	
1	SACYA Oakleigh Park Hall project This project engages young Aboriginal people in education. The creation of an Individual Transition Plan is central to the approach. This alternative educational setting utilises mainstream curriculum and life skills programmes to provide support for students to achieve credentials leading to long term employment. Participants are referred to this programme by their school principal. Participants attend the Alternative Learning Centre, as a substitute for school, which provides access to school based apprenticeships and work experience.	Shellharbour Aboriginal Youth Association Inc.	\$83,000	<i>As at May 2014:</i> <i>Since commencement of funding:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 34 participants are engaged (100% Indigenous); - 10 participants have reengaged with school (29.4%); - 16 participants have achieved a nationally accredited qualification (47%); and - 3 participants have gained employment. There have been many students wishing to self-refer to the project. The project does not have the capacity to accommodate the numbers of students currently wishing to attend and is limited to those students referred by their Principal. Liaison with Shellharbour City Council, Killalea State Park, Warrigal Employment and organisers of the Shellharbour Community Garden has resulted in all agreeing to work with the project.
2			\$120,000	

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1	<p>The Salvation Army Employment Plus — Retail Plus project The Salvation Army Employment Plus — Retail Plus project has employed a Project Manager who provides accredited retail training, pre and post jobs placement mentoring, guidance and negotiates job placement and work experience positions within the Shellharbour shopping complex and the Illawarra region. The project focuses upon disadvantaged, young parents, and jobless families.</p>	<p>The Salvation Army Employment Plus</p>	\$103,600	<p><i>As at May 2014:</i> Eleven participants have just completed the latest intake of the programme and all gained the Cert II in Retail. They are currently in Work Experience and early feedback is that at least five of them will gain employment. The graduation ceremony was on 18 June 2014.</p> <p><i>Since commencement of funding:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 58 participants have completed the program; - 5 have identified as Indigenous; - 13 have returned to school or study (22.4%); - 55 have completed nationally accredited qualifications (94.8%); - 42 have achieved employment (72.4%); and - 11 are currently in work experience. <p>The local HR Specialist for Woolworths reports that the project has been so successful that it has resulted in marked savings in recruitment costs for Woolworths. Additionally there is a higher retention rate of employees after 12 months (Woolworths average is 50%), with the Retail Plus project the retention rate after more than 12 months is currently 100%.</p>
2			\$214,405	
2	<p>Building Capacity for Employment programme The Building Capacity for Employment programme aims to create a culture of employment across the Shellharbour region. It will achieve this by providing intensive growth assistance direct to small businesses and social enterprises, supporting them to develop individualised growth plans and to create employment opportunities for</p>	<p>Access Community Group Ltd</p>	\$286,345	<p><i>As at May 2014:</i> The key achievements of this project relate to the real growth of local small businesses. Providing the business with support to plan for growth and providing the opportunity for the businesses to trial a funded worker to support growth with the objective of this support worker being employed permanently by the small business.</p> <p><i>Since commencement of funding:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 16 small businesses have been supported by the programme since commencement of funding;

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	local people. A variety of training courses will be delivered to young vulnerable people (including young Aboriginal people and young parents) in the region, so that they can be appropriately 'matched' with small businesses.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - participating businesses have received growth plans, and identified goals, and actions for achievement; - 11 people been employed by the supported businesses since the commencement of funding; and - 5 new positions are currently being recruited for due to business growth due to support from programme.
2	<p>Rock Solid Future programme</p> <p>The Rock Solid Future programme is a collaborative project which partners with community providers to provide targeted training and employment through a mentor, training and employment programme. It integrates personal development, education, and professional development and consists of six units of Certificate II in Surface Extraction Operations which are transferrable across community, retail and hospitality sectors. Each work placement will be for a period of 2 weeks and will incorporate office and on site quarry related experiences.</p>	Lighthouse Community Care	\$87,699	<p><i>As at May 2014:</i></p> <p><i>Since commencement of funding:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 32 participants have now completed the program since commencement of funding; - 5 have identified as Indigenous; - 19 returned to school or further study (59.4%); - 31 completed nationally accredited qualifications (96.9%); and - 12 have gained employment (37.5%). <p>In partnership with the Institute of Quarrying Australia (IQA), the Lighthouse Rock Solid Futures Programme hosted an Information Seminar with the aim of providing “relevant information to the programme participants on the value of working in the quarrying industry”. This seminar was attended by 50 people.</p> <p>As a result of this seminar, IQA gave programme participants free access to IQA resources for 12 months including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IQA Student Membership; and - Further industry training provided by the IQA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Introduction to Quarry Products Professional Development Program; o a Webinar Professional Development Program of their choice; o an eLearning Professional Development Program of their

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				<p>choice a free 'Introduction to Quarry Products' 1 day training module as well as free access to webinars; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o e-learning tools and physical resources such as information booklets. <p>The General Manager of IQA took the names and resumes of all interested programme participants in order to encourage the industry to hire this cohort.</p> <p>The Rock Solid Future programme project coordinator is meeting with IQA to discuss the possibility of the programme being rolled out nationally to help address skills shortages in the quarrying industry.</p> <p>A Supervisor from a local Recycling Plant is currently looking over a number of Resumes for participants from both programs as the Managing Director has expressed an interest in employing an individual from the program.</p>
2	<p>What a Man project The What a Man project is designed to engage Aboriginal fathers from jobless families to enter or re-enter the workforce and change the cycle of disadvantage for their families and children. The project will support fathers in developing many skills including financial management, and communication. This project is designed to help raise self-esteem through skill development, further education, work experience and employment.</p>	<p>Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation</p>	\$90,000	<p><i>As at May 2014:</i> <i>Since commencement of funding:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 11 participants engaged; - 11 Indigenous participants (100%); - 6 participants have returned to school (54.5%); - 7 participants achieved a nationally accredited qualification (63.6%); and - 2 participants gained employment (18.2%). <p>Six Memorandums of Association have been endorsed between Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation and local businesses to support work experience</p>

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2	<p>The Hard Grind project The Hard Grind project is a social enterprise café that will provide hospitality training for up to 30 sole parents and job seekers with children each year. The participants will complete a partial Certificate 3 on site, with work experience arranged off site to maximise opportunities to obtain entry level positions or traineeships in the hospitality industry. A mentor will help address issues the participants may have, identify suitable work experience locations, assist them to apply for jobs, support them in training and during early days of employment.</p>	<p>House of Hope Recovery Centre Inc.</p>	\$198,200	<p><i>As at May 2014:</i> <i>Since commencement of funding:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30 participants engaged since commencement of funding; - 2 identify as Indigenous; - 0 returned to school or further study; - 27 completed nationally accredited qualifications (90%); - 12 achieved employment (40%); and - 12 participants are currently in Work Experience.