

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment portfolio**

**Question No:** 155  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1.1  
**Programme:** Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)  
**Topic:** Green Army Project - training plans  
**Hansard Page:** 22  
**Question Date:** 11 May 2015  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

**Senator URQUHART:** Some of that broader cross rounds information and that sort of information is really useful. **Ms Lane:** We can give you some detail on notice of the nature of the types of things that participants are undertaking in their training plans, and there are a number of case studies as well that we can provide you with where, for example, participants have talked about particular experiences that they have had within the program, which is not necessarily a certificate qualification—for example, becoming more independent or building on their foundational skills. They are equally as important as skills. **Senator URQUHART:** I am conscious of time, so I do not want to take up too much of the committee's time. I do not have any further questions, but if you are able to provide that on notice that would be great. Thank you.

**Answer:**

As part of its reporting and auditing processes, the Department of the Environment receives feedback from Green Army Service Providers on Participant training outcomes. Service Providers have indicated participants are receiving training in a variety of competencies, in line with each Service Providers' Operations Manuals. These Operations Manuals indicate opportunities for vocationally oriented accredited training qualifications or nationally endorsed skill sets under the Australian Qualifications Framework will be delivered by a Registered Training Organisation (that has been registered for a minimum period of 12 months) will be offered to all participants.

Prior to engagement in the Programme, Participants and Service Providers negotiate training plans that meet the needs of the each participant considering existing skills and any special needs. The Service Provider's assessment must include ways to address the needs in literacy, numeracy, and other life skills of each Participant. The individual assessment will also be used to determine which Participants already have a range of skills and who can be encouraged to take on more challenging activities. Service Providers should have in place a mechanism to ensure the recognition of prior learning towards a qualification if a Participant has already demonstrated the achievement of a learning outcome for a particular module and that outcome remains valid and performable.

Mandatory training in first aid and work health and safety must also be included for each Participant. Service Providers are also required to conduct cultural awareness training where a Green Army team has Indigenous and non-Indigenous Participants or where activities concern Indigenous communities, heritage or places.