

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

**Question No:** 30  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1.1  
**Programme:** Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)  
**Topic:** Green Army  
**Hansard Page:** 113  
**Question Date:** 26 May 2015  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

**Senator URQUHART:** There is also another one that was taken on notice and that was how many participants are continuing from round 1 into round 2, which you have already got on notice. I am assuming that will be part of that package?

**Mr Sullivan:** Yes.

**Senator URQUHART:** I am also happy for you to take this on notice, but this was also taken earlier this month: details of the nature of the training that participants are undertaking in their training plans and perhaps some case studies. It links into that competencies stuff.

**Mr Sullivan:** Can I suggest that trying to put that together for an overall picture for over 13,000 people, and it will be more than that now, will be really difficult but perhaps a couple of case studies will give you an outline.

**Answer:**

Green Army Projects are now delivering benefits to local communities, with more than 300 projects commenced across Australia. The Government's objectives for the Green Army are to deliver tangible benefits for the environment, while providing skills development opportunities to thousands of young Australians, and strengthening local community involvement.

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 is also 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.

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 the 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, delivered by a Registered Training Organisation (that has been registered for a minimum period of 12 months), will be offered to all Participants.

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.

To date, qualifications delivered under the Green Army Programme have included competencies in a range of fields including first aid, working safely, natural area restoration works, land management, chemical application, construction, treating weeds, planting shrubs and plant recognition. These competencies are also complemented by practical, on-the-job components that align with the environment and heritage outcomes of the Programme. Some Providers have even tailored Green Army activities and incorporated additional training components to assist Participants towards certificate qualifications. At 31 May 2015, of the 549 participants involved in completed projects, 530 (or 96.5 per cent) have undertaken one or more accredited units that contribute towards a Certificate I or II.