

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-15
23 October 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: Australian Apprenticeship Support Network

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: SI-104

1. Does the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network replace Australian Apprenticeship Centres?
2. Are Australian Apprenticeship Centres currently allocated \$210 million per year in funding?
3. Is the funding for the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network \$10 million per year less at \$200 million per year?
4. Has the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network been allocated additional tasks such as job-matching, mentoring, administration of the Trade Support Loans following the cuts to the Australian Apprenticeship Access Program and the Australian Apprenticeship Mentoring Program?
5. The Minister recently indicated to the House that there were 6,000 apprentices who had taken up Trade Support Loans. Is there an updated figure?

ANSWER

1. The Australian Apprenticeship Support Network will commence operations on 1 July 2015, replacing Australian Apprenticeships Centres.
2. As per the 2014-15 Industry Portfolio Budget Statements, allocations for the Australian Apprenticeships Centres are \$210.75 million annually from 2015-16. However, this figure does not reflect the \$46.7 million per annum in savings from 2015-16 and beyond that were to be realised from the *Development of an e-Business Platform for Integration of Information and Payments for the Australian Apprenticeships Systems* measure agreed by the previous government and announced in the 2013 Pre-Election Economic and Fiscal Outlook (PEFO), page 32. The measure's ICT expenditure and associated savings to be generated by shifting from face-to-face services to a self-service IT platform were provided for in the Contingency Reserve pending successful completion of the ICT two pass process.
3. As announced on 8 September 2014, the Australian Government will invest up to \$200 million annually in the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network. This level of funding is projected to meet demand for the programme, and takes into account the reversal of the measure announced at PEFO.
4. The Australian Apprenticeship Support Network will be tasked with the delivery of job-matching and mentoring for a proportion of apprentices and employers. Administration of Trade Support Loans is currently undertaken by Australian Apprenticeships Centres and this will continue under the network.
5. As at 10 November 2014, 10,060 apprentices have taken up Trade Support Loans.