

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

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: Training assistance for auto workers

REFERENCE: Written Question on Notice (Senator Carr)

QUESTION No.: SI-107

1. What assistance is currently available to assist workers currently employed in the automotive manufacturing industry to retrain and reskill?
 - a) What components of this assistance are funded by the Federal Government? Please provide a detailed breakdown and summary of the funding being provided, including information on how workers can access this assistance.
2. In respect to the Government's Growth-Fund and the \$30 million Skills & Training initiative – when will this program be up and running?
3. In respect to the \$30 million Skills & Training initiative as part of the Government's Growth Fund:
 - a) Will Ford workers be able to access this assistance? If not, what support can supply chain workers access?
 - b) Will supply chain workers be able to access this assistance? If not, what support can supply chain workers access?
4. Is there any Federal Government assistance that automotive manufacturing industry workers can access now to help them retrain and reskill in readiness for scheduled closures, or do workers have to wait until they are unemployed before accessing Commonwealth assistance – either through the Growth Fund or through the Department of Employment?
5. Please provide a detailed summary of retraining and reskilling assistance available to each category of affected worker listed below, including what components of the assistance are funded by the Federal Government, and information on how and when workers can access this assistance:
 - a) GM Holden workers
 - b) Toyota workers
 - c) Ford workers
 - d) South Australian supply chain workers
 - e) Victorian supply chain workers
 - f) New South Wales supply chain workers
 - g) Queensland supply chain workers
 - h) Western Australian supply chain workers
 - i) Tasmanian supply chain workers
 - j) Northern Territory supply chain workers
 - k) ACT supply chain workers

ANSWER

1. The Growth Fund Skills and Training Initiative has been established by the Australian Government, Holden and Toyota to support these car manufacturers' workers find a new job when the car manufacturing industry closes in 2017. The Australian Government has already funded a separate project for displaced Ford workers.

The South Australian and Victorian State Governments have also established Workers in Transition programmes to deliver services and support to the car manufacturers' supply chains located in these jurisdictions.

In addition to the above, the Growth Fund also includes additional funding by the Australian Government for extension of the existing Automotive Industry Structural Adjustment Programme to 30 June 2018 and will ensure that intensive employment services support is provided to retrenched automotive workers.

1a). Refer to answer 5.

2. The Growth Fund \$30m Skills and Training initiative has commenced including information and referral services, career advice and training to targeted Holden engineers in Port Melbourne. The full roll out of the Growth Fund Skills and Training initiative to remaining Holden and Toyota workers will occur in early to mid-2015.

3a). No. Ford workers are receiving support via another programme. See response to question 5 for details.

3b). Toyota has identified \$3m of its \$15m contribution to the Growth Fund to go towards support for Toyota's tier 1 supply chain. Other assistance to the supply chain is being provided by Victorian and South Australian state governments. See response to question 5 for details.

4. Holden, Toyota and Ford workers can receive support prior to retrenchment. See response to question 5 for details.

Under the Automotive Industry Structural Adjustment Programme eligible automotive manufacturing industry workers can receive intensive employment services support, including job readiness training, three months prior to their retrenchment, as per question 1.

Question 5:

Impacted workers	Assistance	Funding and Source	How and When
a) GM Holden	Tailored assistance support services may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial education • Health and wellbeing services • Information on jobs in demand • Career and training advice • Skills assessments and skills recognition • Assistance with training and general skilling such as verbal or interpersonal skills 	\$15m ¹ Holden	Through Holden, already commenced
b) Toyota		\$15m ¹ Toyota	Through Toyota, information sessions already commenced
c) Ford	Ford workers are currently receiving career advice, undertaking skills assessments and training being provided on a case by case basis. Ford workers have also received support under the Victorian Workers in Transition programme, but we do not collect data on this.	\$5.25m Australian Government	Through the National Workforce Development Fund
		Unknown Victorian Government	Through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Already commenced
d) South Australian supply chain	The South Australian and Victorian Governments have established Workers in Transition programmes - support for Employees of the Automotive Manufacturing Supply Chain. As part of the Growth Fund's Skills and Training Initiative, an agreed redeployment strategy by the three governments, as well as Holden and Toyota, will see impacted automotive manufacturing supply chain workers receive information, knowledge, skills and support they need to successfully transition to new jobs.	\$7.3m South Australian Government	Through the Automotive Transition Taskforce, commencing in November 2014
e) Victorian supply chain		\$30m Victorian Government	Through Workforce Development Centre Coordinator, already commenced

¹ Funding not spent on Holden and Toyota workers will flow to their tier 1 supply chain. Toyota has already identified \$3m of their \$15m contribution for their tier 1 supply chain.

Impacted workers	Assistance	Funding and Source	How and When
f-k) Other States and Territories supply chain (exc SA and Victoria)	As part of the COAG Industry and Skills Council Meeting in April 2014, Ministers agreed a key priority for governments will be to work collaboratively to increase the capacity of the national training system to respond effectively to automotive and other workers in transition, and to ensure training assists them into more sustainable, higher skilled jobs. Over the next six months the Department of Industry will be working with relevant jurisdictions to ensure there is flexibility in existing programs for workforce and industry adjustment to support impacted workers.	National Training System funding Australian and State and Territory Governments	Through relevant State and Territory training Authorities, already commenced