

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015**

Outcome: Schools and Youth

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000215

Senator Lines, Sue provided in writing.

Youth Unemployment

Question

Is the Department or the Government currently working on any policies to address rising youth unemployment? Is any work being undertaken by or for COAG or the Ministerial Council?

Answer

The Department of Employment provided the following input:

To ensure that all young people have the chance to be the best they can be, the Australian Government is implementing a multi-faceted strategy that creates jobs through building a strong economy and ensures our young people have the skills, support and incentives to take these jobs.

A key element of the strategy is the Youth Employment Strategy. The Government (Department of Employment) will provide over \$330 million to implement a Youth Employment Strategy to help young Australians overcome challenges to participating in work and study. The strategy will help improve employment outcomes for Australia's young people and make it easier for them to enter the workforce. Otherwise, Australia risks losing too many to long-term unemployment. Young Australians need the right assistance and encouragement to learn new skills, become job ready, get a job, and stay in a job.

A new \$212 million Youth Transition to Work programme will assist young people who have disengaged from work and study and are at risk of long-term welfare dependence. Community-based organisations will provide flexible and holistic support to help these young people find and maintain employment or take up an apprenticeship or traineeship.

This will be supplemented by \$106 million for intensive support for key groups of vulnerable job seekers including disadvantaged young people with mental health concerns and vulnerable young migrants, focused on providing the right mix of services and support while encouraging young people to get and stay in a job.

Current requirements for job seekers will also be strengthened under the \$14 million Early School Leaver policy, which helps improve education outcomes for early school leavers by ensuring they are working or studying.