

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017**

**Outcome: Skills and Training**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000229**

Senator Griff, Stirling provided in writing.

***Mentoring programs currently available to apprentices***

**Question**

What mentoring programs are currently available to apprentices?

- a. Which of these mentoring programs are facilitated by mentors drawn from the same industry as the apprentices?
- b. According to the MTA in South Australia alone, there is a labour shortage of 1,100 skilled workers in the automotive industry. How is the Department supporting apprentices specifically in the automotive industry to address these shortages?

**Answer**

a)

- Mentoring for apprenticeships is provided through the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (AASN).
- The AASN commenced on 1 July 2015 and plays an integral role in the management of apprenticeships; AASN providers are nationally recognised as a single source of information for students and employers and are responsible for administering apprenticeship contracts and payments under the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program and the Trade Support Loans.
- The current contract includes new targeted services comprising both Gateway and In-training support services which have been designed to complement Universal servicing (apprentice sign-ups and eligibility for employer and apprentice incentives) where there is a need for additional support to individuals, apprentices and/or employers.
- Gateway services provide customised pre-commencement services to employers seeking assistance to establish apprenticeship or traineeship training arrangements to suit their business needs, or to individuals seeking an apprenticeship to find the 'right fit' employer and training and assist individuals who require additional skills or support prior to commencing an apprenticeship.
- In-training support provides tailored support, predominately through mentoring, to individuals assessed as being at high-risk of non-completion and assists employers who may be facing difficulties retaining an apprentice in training. These services provide interventions at crucial times to help apprentices overcome potential issues and remain in training, therefore improving retention and completion rates.

b)

- The Australian Government provides assistance to employers of Australian Apprentices in the automotive industry through the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program and to automotive apprentices through Trade Support Loans. A range of automotive occupations are included on the program's publicly available National Skills Needs List and also on the Trade Support Loans Priority List. These include automotive electrician, diesel motor mechanic, motor mechanic (general), motorcycle mechanic, small engine mechanic, vehicle body builder, vehicle painter and vehicle trimmer. In addition, direct support is provided to the automotive industry through programs administered by the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science including the Automotive Transformation Scheme.