Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2013-2014

Outcome 3 - Employment

DEEWR Question No. EW0119_14

Senator Siewert asked on 4 June 2013, Hansard page 11

Question

Building Australia's Future Workforce Program

Senator SIEWERT: Can I park that for a moment because I am going to run out of time; I want to ask a specific question about the review. Ms Parker: There are other pieces of the place based system. Would you like me to describe those? I will do it quickly. Senator SIEWERT: Yes, if you could. Is it possible to get information on what the deliverables are out of these programs? Ms Parker: Certainly, yes—of the place based in particular? Senator SIEWERT: The place based in particular, and the evaluation and process that is being undertaken for each of them and the time frames for that. That would be appreciated. Ms Parker: That is fine. I will just list the other ones, then, perhaps. The other components of these place based trials, as you called them, include a program called Regional Education, Skills and Jobs. They are coordinators working with stakeholders, including Regional Development Australia committees, to do plans and work with local communities. They are basically focused on participation, education and training in regional Australia. They are very regionally based. We have a program called Local Connections to Work, which provides locally tailored support for job seekers. Our DHS providers and other services in states and territories work together to provide a wrap-around service to assist job seekers. We also have measures called Helping Young Parents. They are focused on helping teenage parents in 10 disadvantaged locations to get year 12. Senator SIEWERT: So that is part of the place based— Ms Parker: Yes, these are all place based programs that are aimed at helping their children get the best start in life. Another component of the place based measures is a program called Community Innovation through Collaboration. Again, in the priority employment areas, we have a range of government action leaders, community actions leaders and local advisory groups. All of them are working together in the 10 local government areas with a small Local Solutions Fund, which is aimed at increasing social and economic participation in those areas. That is a four-year program that is run by the Department of Human Services. Senator SIEWERT: What size is the local fund? Ms Parker: The fund is \$21.79 million over four years. We have a couple more. The compulsory participation requirement for jobless families is where parents who receive a parenting payment are required to attend interviews and workshops with the Department of Human Services. That is aimed at moving them towards being job ready and having their children attend school. That is another program that we have under the place based programs. Finally, we have, in targeted locations, a program called Income Management. Senator SIEWERT: I know a lot about income management. Ms Parker: That is the last one that is part of this broader, place based pilot. Senator SIEWERT: So that is counted as part of the place based pilot? Ms Parker: Yes, it is. Senator SIEWERT: Against each of those, when you tell me the deliverables, could

you also outline how much the funding for each one of those is? Ms Parker: Yes, that is fine.

Answer

Please see Attachment A.