

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No. ED0272_15

Senator Xenophon provided in writing.

Question

Partnership Brokers Program

The department would be familiar with the Partnership Brokers program that supports young people into work. Funding for this program is not secured past December this year. 1. Can the department provide information on what other programs are available to assist young people into work, particularly in rural or regional areas where the opportunity to 'earn or learn' is limited? 2. Do any of these other programs address issues such as lack of transport, lack of accessible training organisations, and high unemployment in particular areas? 3. Is there any assistance that focuses on the importance of engagement for young people in work or study, in the way that Partnership Brokers does? 4. Has the department done any modelling on the impact of ending funding for this program?

Answer

1. State and territory authorities, non-government school systems and individual school principals are responsible for ensuring school age children are engaged in education. All jurisdictions have a participation requirement that young people must be in schools (or training or work) until they are 17 years old.

There are a number of Australian Government programmes and policies that assist young people into work, including those in rural and regional areas. For example:

- Job Services Australia (JSA), including support services available through the Employment Pathway Fund (EPF)
- Disability Employment Services
- Trade Support Loans from July 1 2014
- New Work for the Dole arrangements from July 1 2014
- Job Commitment Bonus from July 1 2014
- Relocation Assistance from 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014
- Tasmanian Jobs Programme from 1 January 2014.

2. Young job seekers can access JSA services through a national network of service providers. Under current JSA arrangements, JSA providers can use funds available to them through the EPF to help address young job seekers' vocational and non-vocational barriers to employment. Support services may include training courses, work experience, clothing, transport costs as well as assistance to overcome any personal difficulties that may be hindering their ability to find and keep a job.

3. The programmes identified above are all focused on engaging young people in work and/or study.
4. The department has not undertaken formal modelling on the impact of the Partnership Brokers programme ceasing.