

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000089

Senator Cameron asked on 01 June 2015 on proof Hansard page 63

Question

Program funding

Senator CAMERON: Were all the other programs receiving funding equivalent to what you have outlined for Geelong prior to their funding being ceased?

Ms Kidd: Broadly. Each of the areas had a local employment coordinator. They each had access to a flexible fund. I think the amount in the flexible fund varied from year to year, but it was broadly the same initiative.

Senator CAMERON: Broadly the same initiative. That is not what I am asking. I am asking about the amount.

Mr Hehir: We might need to take the exact amount on notice. It is important to note that my understanding is that those coordinators were in place for about five years as opposed to the Geelong coordinator, who had been in place for nine months before the initial extension. These relationships and innovations take some time to build. Having had five years, the program ceased in other areas. But the government decided to extend this one because it had been there for only nine months.

Answer

- In **2016–17** the Flexible Funding Pool for the Geelong Employment Facilitator is \$350,000.
- In **2015–16** the Flexible Funding Pool for the Geelong Employment Facilitator is \$550,000.
- In **2014–15** the Flexible Funding Pool for the Geelong Employment Facilitator was \$300,000.
- In **2013–14** \$4.2 million was allocated to the Local Employment Coordinator Flexible Funding Pool across 21 Priority Employment Areas, with \$160,000 notionally allocated to each of the 21 priority employment areas, including Greater Geelong.