

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Outcome 2 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-004045

Senator Abetz asked on 29 May 2017 on proof Hansard page 108

Question

Payment dates under the Productivity Education and Training Fund

Senator ABETZ: How much of the agreed funding was paid?

Ms Parker: All of that funding was paid.

Senator ABETZ: And when were the payments made? Has it all been paid out or is it paid out at 10 per cent each year for the 10 years?

Mr Edwards: The first payment was in June 2012, and the final payment was certainly made before the end of the calendar year 2012. I do not have them in full.

...

...

Senator ABETZ: Can you provide us with the exact date on which each grant payment was made. Take that on notice.

Ms Parker: I think we provided that, didn't we? It was only two payments—

Senator ABETZ: One was in June and one was about six months later. But if you could take the exact dates on notice. We do not need to delay tonight on that. How is the foundation required to spend this money—as in, what acquittals or reports of spending were required?

Answer

Payments of grants

The Productivity Education and Training Fund grants were paid to The Union Education Foundation (TUEF), in two equal instalments 1) upon execution of a funding agreement; and 2) by 30 August 2012 subject to the parties agreeing to project milestones and deliverables.

The table below lists the activity completion and grant payment dates.

Grantee recipient	Agreement Execution	First grant instalment* paid (\$5.5m inc GST)	Milestones and deliverables agreed	Second and final grant instalment paid (\$5.5m inc GST)
TUEF	29 June 2012	10 July 2012	19 December 2012	17 January 2013

* Payment accrued to 2011–12.

Grant expenditure reporting and acquittal

The funding agreement requires TUEF to acquit and report on its spending of Australian Government funds. This includes that TUEF must:

- provide annual plans and progress reports on 31 January each year (clause 11.1a–d). These documents provide details on deliverables, budgets and expenditure, key performance measures and risk management.
- provide detailed six monthly statements of income and expenditure by 31 January and 31 July each year, including a statement of the balance of funds. The CEO, chief internal auditor or a board member must certify that the funding was used in accordance with the agreement (clause 11.1e).
- submit a final detailed statement of income and expenditure at the end of the project, including a statement of the balance of the funds, prepared by an independent auditor. The auditor must certify that the funding was used for the project in accordance with the agreement (clauses 11.3 – 11.6).