

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014

Cross Portfolio

Department of Employment Question No. EM0011_14

Senator Cameron provided in writing.

Question

Discretionary grants programs

1. How many discretionary grants programs are managed by the department? Can the department provide a list of those programs including: • on whose advice the grants are made; • who the decision maker is; • whether there has been a pause in the release of funding for grants under these programs. 2. In the event programs have been paused: • What advice has been provided to stakeholders about the nature and purpose of the pause? • Does this include grants that have been advertised but not yet finalised? • Does this include grants where decisions had been finalised but recipients had not yet been notified? • Is there an indicative timeline as to when successful recipients of grants can expect to hear from government? • Are all grants subject to the pause? • Have any exceptions to the pause been made?

Answer

1. The following discretionary grant programs are managed by the Department as at 31 December 2013.

Discretionary grant program name	Decision maker (Department or Minister)
Access to Mentoring Support for Indigenous Job Seekers Pilot	Department
Flexible Funding Pool	Department
Regional Education, Skills and Jobs Initiative	Department
Centre for Workplace Leadership Funding Agreement	Minister
Ethical Clothing Australia	Department
Safe Work Australia Partners Grant Funding	Minister
ARC Linkage Project	Department
Tasmanian Jobs Programme	Minister

2. In the event programs have been paused:

- (a) What advice has been provided to stakeholders about the nature and purpose of the pause?

Stakeholders were advised that the Government was assessing all grant spending for consistency with Government priorities and commitments and that there was a requirement for additional approval by the Minister for Finance, to ensure that assessment can take place, before any relevant grant spending can proceed. All background work in relation to these programs, such as managing existing contracts, and the general management of these programs continued in the normal way.

- (b) Does this include grants that have been advertised but not yet finalised?

Yes

- (c) Does this include grants where decisions had been finalised but recipients had not yet been notified?

Yes

- (d) Is there an indicative timeline as to when successful recipients of grants can expect to hear from government?

The Government has assessed all grant programs of the Department of Employment for consistency with Government priorities and commitments. Successful grant recipients can expect to hear the results of their grant applications as part of normal course of business.

- (e) Are all grants subject to the pause?

The Government has not paused grants. The Government assessed all grant spending for consistency with Government priorities and commitments. This has included an additional step in agencies' grants processes requiring the Minister for Finance to be consulted prior to any grant spending to assess the grant's alignment with Government priorities. All the background work in relation to these programs, such as managing existing contracts, and the general management of these programs continued in the normal way.

- (f) Have any exceptions to the pause been made?

Yes, excluded from this review are those legislated entitlement based programs, such as pension entitlement and Medicare benefits made under specific legislation; and instalments or milestone payments under existing funding agreements.