

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 2 – Schools and Youth

Department of Education Question No. ED0548_15

Senator O'Neill provided in writing.

Question

Youth Attainment and Transitions - National Job Guide and My Future websites

In relation to Youth Attainment and Transitions programs:

- a. What was the line-budget for each of the last five years, for the National Job Guide and My Future websites?
- b. For the National Job Guide – please separate out the cost of developing the Job Guide from the printing and distribution cost for each of the last five years?
- c. What would the cost of producing an online-only version of the National Job Guide be? Has the Government sought any advice on producing an online-only version of the National Job Guide? Have any other Department – in particular the Industry Department – sought any advice on this matter?
- d. For each year since its inception, how many National Jobs Guides have been printed? How many copies have been produced in other formats (e.g. electronic)? How many times has the National Job Guide been accessed online? How many copies of the job guide were distributed in each state and territory in each year?
- e. The Government has claimed the National Job Guide and My Future website were underutilised? What evidence does the Department have to back this up?
- f. Before making the decision to cut the National Job Guide and My Future website, was advice sought from career counsellors or any other professional organisations? Please provide information about any consultations and copies of relevant correspondence.
- g. How many items of correspondence has the Minister and the Department received, since the Budget, in relation to the decision to cut the National Job Guide and the My Future website? How many items of correspondence supported the cancellation of the program and how many opposed it?
- h. How long has the National Job Guide has existed for, and how many students it has been distributed to or assisted over the years since its inception?

Answer

a) Line-budget for the last 5 years – National Job Guide and myfuture websites

	2010-11 (\$)	2011-12 (\$)	2012-13 (\$)	2013-14 (\$)	2014-15 (\$)
myfuture maintenance	1,234,482	*3,500,586.10	300,000	1,130,000	438,917
Job Guide (production, printing and distribution)	1,987,000	1,287,335	1,361,313	1,331,371	**1,358,682

*includes contract for maintenance and enhancements.

**Estimate for Job Guide 2015

b) National Job Guide – production, printing and distribution costs

Job Guide	Production	Printing/Distribution
2014/2015	\$779,000	\$581,000
2013/2014	\$767,000	\$565,000
2012/2013	\$762,000	\$600,000
2011/2012	\$721,000	\$568,000
2010/2011***	\$668,000	\$1,319,000

***This was the last year schools received one book per Year 10 student. In subsequent years printing was reduced to class sets.

- c) The cost of an online-only version would be similar to that of the production costs in the table above.

The Government has not sought advice about producing an online-only version of the Job Guide.

No other department has sought advice from the Department of Education on this matter.

- d) Approximately 350,000 copies of the Job Guide were produced annually until 2012, depending on the number of Year 10 students at any given time.

For the last four years (2012-2015), following the 2011 decision that reduced the number of copies produced and provided, the department has produced approximately 120,000 copies of the Job Guide annually.

The Job Guide has been produced as a hard copy, CD-ROM version and a website. Approximately 3600 copies of the CD-ROM are produced annually.

The department cannot confirm the number of individuals who accessed the Job Guide online. In the 2012–13 financial year, the landing page of the website had 1,510,359 hits but this should not be taken as a proxy for individual users.

Distribution is based on Year 10 student numbers with class sets allocated based on these numbers.

Job Guide	ACT / NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Total
2014/2015	47,500	1900	28,800	10,900	4000	34,800	14,000	141,900
2013/2014	44,300	1900	27,200	10,800	4000	32,300	13,200	133,700
2012/2013	46,717	1648	26,925	10,131	3911	30,864	13,034	133,230
2011/2012	46,500	1850	26,750	10,550	4100	30,350	14,350	134,450
2010/2011	114,251	3987	72,376	25,909	9052	80,565	37,836	343,974

Prior to 2010/2011 the distribution policy was 1 copy per year 10 student which was approximately 350,000 copies in total each year.

- e) The department is unable to provide information without further detail of the claim referred to.
- f) The department is not able to comment on factors taken into account in the Cabinet decision process.

- g) As at 14 November, the department has received 183 items of correspondence about the Job Guide and myfuture. All opposed the cessation of the resources.
- h) The Job Guide has existed since 1978, although not in its current format. The current format has been in existence since 1995. See answer d) for the number produced. The department distributes copies to schools and cannot determine the number then distributed to students or the assistance provided.