

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000910

Senator Cameron, Doug provided in writing.

Decline in apprentice numbers

Question

Please provide details of any additional steps the Government taking to reverse the decline in apprentice numbers?

Answer

The decline in the number of apprentices since 2012 has been a concern for the Australian Government. The Government is committed to reversing this decline and has instigated a number of reforms in the sector.

As part of the broader VET Reform agenda, the Government introduced Trade Support Loans (\$209.3 million budgeted in 2016–17), implemented the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (\$189.1 million budgeted in 2016–17) and is continuing efforts to harmonise apprenticeship and traineeship pathway qualifications across the states and territories.

Further to this, the Government provided \$6.82 million to support the delivery of the Multi Industry School Based and Pre-apprenticeship Support pilot project. The pilot will support 1000 young people who are still at school and a further 1000 unemployed youth who have left school.

In August 2016, the Government released the Apprenticeships Reform Advisory Group Recommendation Report, developed by industry, government and vocational education and training sector representatives. The Report provided 22 recommendations to further strengthen the Australian apprenticeships system in three priority policy areas: pre-apprenticeships, incentive arrangements and alternative models of delivery. The Report also recommends broader improvements of the system. The Government is using the Advisory Group's report as a platform to consult on reform options.