

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Additional Budget Estimates Hearing 2013-14
27 February 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: National Workforce Development Fund

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Kim Carr

QUESTION No.: AI-145

With regard to NWDF:

1. Can the minister advise when the Oz-Eco Group will receive their funding for 300 students? Oz-Eco group have 300 registered students of which 150 have been through the course and are currently being processed. They have now been advised that all funding for the additional 150 students has been held back until further notice and they are unable to ascertain from the department when funds will be released.
Further, in senate estimates there was some confusion as to whether an application had been received, possibly through an industry skills council. Can the minister confirm whether an application has been received?
2. What percentage of this financial year's allocated budget has been used for the NWDF and has any funding been held back?
3. What was the total number of projects funded this year to date?
4. How many of these projects have had full payments processed?
5. When will any unused funding be allocated?
6. When will currently approved projects receive funding?
7. How many projects are currently being assessed for approval?
8. How many projects are awaiting the minister's approval?

ANSWER

1. An application from Oz-Eco Group for 150 learners has been approved for NWDF funding. Payments have been made in accordance with payment milestones in the funding agreement. The Department of Industry notified the applicant of the outcome of their application on 6 December 2013. No other applications from Oz-Eco Group have been received by the Department. The Industry Skills Council has several emails from Oz-Eco Group requesting increased learner numbers on the existing project. Under the programme arrangements requests to increase learners can be made. The request must be supported by a business case which is evaluated against the funding assessment criteria outlined in the programme guidelines. The Industry Skills Council is awaiting evidence of industry demand.
2. As at 28 February 2014, 34.55 per cent of the 2013-14 allocation for new NWDF projects had been expended.
3. As at 28 February 2014 there are 166 projects approved for funding in 2013-14.
4. All projects have had payments made in accordance with milestones for payments set out in funding agreements.
5. Allocation of unused funding is a decision of Government.
6. All approved projects have payments made in accordance with milestones for payments set out in funding agreements.
7. As at 28 February 2014, 152 projects are under assessment.
8. Nil.