

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
28 and 29 May 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Economic Potential of Senior Australians – Investing in Experience – Skills Recognition Training. Budget Paper 2 page 225

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Nash

QUESTION No.: BI-125

1. Has the department been asked to provide the government or their minister any proposals or briefs on the program “More Help for Mature Age Workers”?
2. How many participants there were in the “More Help for Mature Age Workers” program in the period July 1st 2011 to now?
3. What are the differences between the “Economic Potential of Senior Australians, Investing in Experience Program” and the “More Help for Mature Age Workers Program”?

ANSWER

1. In March 2012, the department initiated a brief to Minister Evans to broaden the scope of the More Help for Mature Age Workers (MHMAW) program and to rename it the Investing in Experience (Skills Recognition & Training) (IIE-SRT) program.

Concurrent with the development of this brief, the Treasurer requested consideration be given to modify MHMAW by broadening the program’s scope as it would be an appropriate response to the recommendations of the Advisory Panel on the Economic Potential of Senior Australians.

2. As at 18 June 2012, a total of 823 applications under MHMAW have been approved.
3. There are two significant differences between IIE-SRT and MHMAW. IIE-SRT is broader in scope targeting all employment sectors. MHMAW was focused on trade-relevant occupations only.

While the total entitlement remains the same (\$4,400 GST inclusive), the payment structure under IIE-SRT allocates 75 per cent of funds to the completion of a skills assessment and the commencement of any gap training (if required). The remaining 25 per cent is committed to the completion of that gap training.

Under MHMAW, payments were structured equally - 50 per cent for the skills assessment and 50 per cent for the commencement of gap training (if required).