

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
17 October 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: AUSTRALIAN WORKFORCE AND PRODUCTIVITY AGENCY

TOPIC: National Workforce Development Fund

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Sinodinos.

QUESTION No.: SI-129

- a) What has been the total expenditure to date from the National Workforce Development Fund?
- b) Has the take up of the NWDF been to expectations?
- c) How many small businesses have received funding?
- d) Has DEEWR received any feedback to indicate that the 33% of reciprocal funding required from small businesses is too high and therefore preventing some from applying?
- e) What date does DEEWR expect to make the announcement of successful tenders?
- f) Is there an expectation for more specialist contracts this time around?
- g) How much time will providers have before the transition stage is due to begin?

ANSWER

- a) As at 30 June 2012 the government had committed \$174 million and industry \$100 million.
- b) Yes
- c) 60 per cent of all projects approved in 2011-12 involve a small business.
- d) Some firms impacted by structural economic change advise they have difficulty in providing the co-contribution. The department is monitoring the take up of training by enterprise size.
- e) Applications for funding are received and assessed on a rolling basis.
- f) No
- g) The Fund has been operating since 2011-12, with no change to the guidelines. From 1 July 2012 the Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency became involved in the management of the Fund. The Department is not aware of transitional issues for providers.