

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** All  
**Output Group:** All

#### DEST Question No. E989\_04

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### Question:

*Mature Age Employment Assistance:*

- (a) Could the Department provide a full list of all employment, education and training programmes targeted to mature age persons and the forward estimates for each of these programmes?
- (b) Could the Department provide an update on each programme and explain how it operates in relation to the type of assistance provided to the target group?
- (c) How many participants have gone through each programme since its commencement?
- (d) Can the Department provide an itemised breakdown of where funding has gone eg. advertising costs, Centrelink staff, external service providers or organisations etc?
- (e) Will there be any funding continuing to these programmes beyond 2004/2005? If not please outline the reasons why the programmes will no longer be funded?
- (f) What has been the progress of each program, including any employment outcomes (full time, part time and casual employment outcomes) by gender, equity, age and target group?

#### Answer:

*Mature Age Employment Assistance*

#### (a) **New Apprenticeships Incentives Programme (NAIP) - Mature Aged Worker Incentive**

##### Forward Estimates:

2003-04 \$ m	2004-05 \$ m	2005-06 \$ m	2006-07 \$ m
0.55	1.014	2.562	3.564

- (b) This element of New Apprenticeships commenced on 1 July 2003. It assists eligible disadvantaged mature aged persons to achieve accredited training at AQF III or IV level through a New Apprenticeship. Under this incentive, an employer of a disadvantaged mature aged worker may attract an \$825 Special Mature Aged Worker Commencement Incentive and an \$825 Special Mature Aged Worker Completion Incentive, depending on the eligibility of the worker.

Under the Programme, 'mature aged' means New Apprentices are aged 45 years or over and 'disadvantaged' means that immediately prior to commencing the New

Apprenticeship, they were in receipt of specified income support from Centrelink or the Department of Veterans' Affairs; or were not in the paid workforce; or were in receipt of intensive support or had been made redundant from work.

(c) There have been 39 New Apprenticeship commencements and 4 New Apprenticeship completions since July 2003.

(d) Funding has been provided to employers of New Apprentices.

(e) Funding will continue for the Programme beyond 2004-2005.

(f) 19 of the commencing New Apprentices were female and 20 were male. All completing New Apprentices were male.

13 of the commencing New Apprentices were full-time and 26 were part-time. All completions related to part-time New Apprenticeships.

Data for commencing New Apprentices show there were no Indigenous Australians. Three people self identified as having a disability.

**(a) New Apprenticeships Access Programme (NAAP)**

**Forward Estimates (total programme funding covering all target groups):**

<b>2003-04</b> <b>\$ m</b>	<b>2004-05</b> <b>\$ m</b>	<b>2005-06</b> <b>\$ m</b>	<b>2006-07</b> <b>\$ m</b>
9.231	10.618	10.318	10.524

(b) The New Apprenticeships Access Programme (NAAP) provides job seekers who experience barriers to employment with pre-vocational training, support and assistance to obtain and maintain a New Apprenticeship or employment, or go on to further education or training.

NAAP targets a wide range of client groups facing significant barriers to entering New Apprenticeships. One of these target groups is "mature age workers over 45 years of age".

(c) 565 people over the age of 45 have participated in NAAP since July 2002.

(d) All funding has been provided to organisations that are contracted to broker delivery of the programme.

(e) Funding will continue for the Programme beyond 2004-2005.

(f) 417 of the mature age commencements were female and 148 were male. 91 of the female and 35 of the male participants successfully achieved and maintained a New Apprenticeship or employment outcome.

77 of the mature age outcomes were full-time and 49 were part-time.

6 mature age participants identified as Indigenous Australians. 49 identified as having a disability.

**(a) Basic IT Enabling Skills for Older Workers Programme (BITES)**

**Forward Estimates:**

<b>2003-04</b> <b>\$ m</b>	<b>2004-05</b> <b>\$ m</b>	<b>2005-06</b> <b>\$ m</b>	<b>2006-07</b> <b>\$ m</b>
5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75

(b) BITES provides older workers with the opportunity to undertake nationally recognised training in information technology. It is designed to help low income, mature aged job seekers gain skills in information and communication technology, in order for them to operate personal computers effectively at a basic level in the workforce.

The Programme is available to people who are:

- 45 years and over; and
- have a low income; and
- in the labour force (i.e. currently in work or looking for work); and who
- have no post-school IT qualification.

The training comprises three units from the Certificate Level I (ICA 10101) qualification under the Information Technology Training Package (ICA99).

(c) 16,255 people have participated in BITES since December 2002.

(d) All funding has been provided to organisations that are contracted to broker delivery of the Programme.

(e) Funding will continue for the Programme beyond 2004-2005.

(f) 9,111 participants were female and 7,144 were male.

Employment outcomes are not formally tracked as the Programme does not provide a complete qualification.

1,238 participants were Non English Speaking Background, 103 Indigenous and 1,330 identified as having a disability.