

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

**Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0394\_14**

**Senator Xenophon provided in writing.**

**Question**

***Partnership Brokers Program***

1. In relation to the Partnership Brokers program, can the department confirm what funding will be available over the forward estimates? Is this consistent with the current funding? 2. If there is a reduction in funding, what are the department's or government's plans for the skilled contract managers in these programs? What programs will replace the existing one to support disengaged young people into work? 3. In the unexpected event that the program is not to be refunded what are the department's plans to support existing and evolving partnerships that are reliant on a conduit in the initial phase of these partnerships to link business & industry, community groups, parents and the education and training sector?

**Answer**

1. Funding for the Schools Business Community Partnership Brokers programme in 2014-15 is \$23.69 million to fund programme services until December 2014. This represents approximately 50 per cent of annual funding costs and is consistent with current funding. No further funding is identified in the forward estimates for this programme.
2. There was no budgeted funding beyond end December 2014 therefore there is no reduction in funding.
3. The Partnership Broker programme is designed to build the capacity of stakeholders to maintain partnerships beyond the initial support provided by a Partnership Broker. Should the programme cease at the end of 2014 as scheduled then the department will require providers to direct greater effort for the remainder of the contract period toward capacity building to support existing partnerships to become self-sustaining.