

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2
Output Group: 2.2 – New Apprenticeships

DEST Question No. E054_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

For the 2003-04 year provide a list of the number of mature age apprentices that have entered the New Apprenticeships system, the level of training, and the cost of training and employer subsidies paid?

Provide a list of the number of mature age apprentices expected to go through the New Apprenticeships systems and the cost in training and employer subsidies?

How much of the estimated expenditure for mature age incentives was spent in the budget years 2002-03 and 2003-04?

Answer:

Mature Aged New Apprentices

In 2003-04 there were 25,915 mature aged New Apprentices (aged 45 and over) who commenced training. The employers of these New Apprentices have received \$20,416,950 in New Apprenticeships incentives. The table below divides these mature aged New Apprentices into the level of training as determined by the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF).

AQF1	AQF2	AQF3	AQF4	AQF5	Total
1	2,217	18,706	4,943	48	25,915

Note: The above statistics relating to 2003-04 are expected to increase due to processing and registration time lags.

The Department's Management Information System does not hold data on the cost of training as training is the responsibility of the State/Territory Training Authorities.

The Department's Estimate model for New Apprenticeships indicate that the participation level of mature aged apprentices in the New Apprenticeship system will increase in parallel with overall participation into the future.

The New Apprenticeships Incentives Programme (NAIP) introduced a targeted incentive on 1/7/2003 to encourage participation by mature aged, disadvantaged jobseekers. The mature aged workers incentive is paid in two installments – at commencement and at completion. The total mature age incentives spent in the 2002-03 and 2003-04 budget years excluding GST is as follows:

	2002-03	2003-04 (Actual)
Mature Aged Worker Commencement	Nil	\$66,825.00
Mature Aged Worker Completion	Nil	\$ 3,750.00