

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

**Outcome:** 2

**Output Group:** 2.1 – Funding for Vocational Education and Training

#### **DEST Question No. E066\_05 – Amended**

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

In April, the Minister announced a range of skill shortages initiatives including a number of apprenticeship pilot programs, regional skill shortages partnerships, adopt a school program, a new apprenticeships roundtable and a new national taskforce.

The media release had not one cent of funding attached to these programs. Does the department know how much each will cost and where will the money come from? Also identify how much is new or additional money?

Please provide a breakdown of what is included in the New Apprenticeships Workforce Development appropriation?

How does adopt a school differ to the current industry engagement project to help encourage business to promote better pathways and apprenticeships in schools?

#### **Answer:**

##### *Skill shortages initiatives*

The expenditure on National Skill Shortages Strategy (NSSS) was \$0.819m in 2003-04 and \$4m is available from the Strategic Intervention Programme (SIP) in 2004-05 within the existing New Apprenticeships Workforce Skills Development appropriation.

The SIP supports responses to emerging issues relating to vocational education and training, in particular, New Apprenticeships. It is provided to address impediments to the development of a nationally consistent, industry led, vocational education and training system. It focuses particularly on supporting the development and piloting of New Apprenticeships in industry sectors and regions where they do not currently exist, and in industry sectors with identified skills shortages or projected employment growth.

The Apprenticeships Workforce Development appropriation is \$15.5m, provisionally allocated for 2004-05 as follows:

- Group Training New Apprenticeships Targeted Initiatives - \$5.0m
- Industry Training Strategies: \$6.5m
- Strategic Intervention Programme (SIP): \$4.0m

'Adopt a school' projects are one element within the Australian Government's current suite of industry engagement projects. The overall aim of the industry engagement initiatives is to provide a targeted and strategic approach to support the Australian Government's implementation of the MCEETYA Framework for vocational education in schools by the end of 2004. All industry engagement initiative projects including 'adopt a school', promote vocational education pathways, including school-based new Apprenticeships, for young people.