

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

**Cross Portfolio**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0035\_12**

**Senator Abetz provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Commissioned Reports**

How many reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio FYTD? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members. How much did each report cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level? What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

**Answer**

Nine reports have been commissioned by the department for the Government for the Financial Year To Date 2010-2011. See [Attachment A](#) for details.

Report	Details of report	Estimated Cost	Departmental staff	Status	Government Response Date
<p>1. Realising Potential: Businesses Helping Schools to Develop Australia's Future</p>	<p>Report commissioned in February 2010 Report provided to Government 25 February 2011 Public release 9 May 2011 with an accompanying Government response.</p> <p><b>Terms of Reference</b> The Business-School Connections Roundtable will oversee the development of a practical strategy to ensure all schools benefit from a business connection, with the aims of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improving educational outcomes</li> <li>• harnessing business as a partner in education</li> <li>• increasing successful partnerships</li> </ul> <p>The strategy should aim to add value to existing and future activity in the field, without disrupting it. It should target both schools and businesses that currently do not have partnerships, and those which already have partnerships but might be looking for ways to strengthen them. The Roundtable will draw on the personal and organisational experience of its members, and on baseline research which has been commissioned by DEEWR. It will also provide opportunities for the broader community to engage with the development of the strategy. The Roundtable will conclude its work and present the proposed strategy, for consideration by the Minister for Education, by 25 February 2011.</p> <p><b>Membership</b> The membership of the Roundtable was drawn from people in the business, community and education sectors who have already demonstrated their commitment and expertise in supporting school communities.</p> <p>Australian Business and Community Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carey Badcoe (Chief Executive Officer)</li> </ul> <p>Foundation for Young Australians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adam Smith (Chief Executive Officer) til May 2010</li> <li>• Jan Owen (Chief Executive Officer) from Oct 2010 proxy: Dr Lucas Walsh (Director of Research)</li> </ul> <p>IBM Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandra Francis (Workforce Management Executive)</li> </ul> <p>Macquarie Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Julie White (Division Director and Global Head, Macquarie Group Foundation)</li> </ul> <p>Microsoft Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Craig Foster (Education Director)</li> </ul> <p>National Australia Bank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michael Ullmer (Deputy Group CEO) – Chair of the Roundtable</li> </ul> <p>Principals Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liz Furler (Chief Executive Officer)</li> <li>• proxy: Andrew Blair</li> </ul> <p>Rio Tinto</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michelle Gibson (Group Advisor, Operational Learning and Development Strategies) til Nov 2010</li> <li>• Damien Woods (Principal Advisor, Professional Development) from Dec 2010</li> </ul> <p>Woolworths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kim Schmidt (Director Human Resources)</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/Documents/RoundtableReport.pdf">http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/Documents/RoundtableReport.pdf</a></p>	<p>\$450,000 *Funding was to cover the activities of the Roundtable including consultations and a baseline research project. Roundtable members did not receive payment for their contribution to the Report.</p>	<p>The Department offered secretariat support to the Roundtable in drafting the report, including Branch Manager, 1xEL2, 2xEL1, 2xAPS6</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>On 9 May 2011 the Minister for School Education, Peter Garrett announced the Australian Government's response.</p>

2.Resourcing the Future	<p>Report commissioned September 2009. Report provided to Government 5 July 2010. Public release 17 July 2010.</p> <p><b>Terms of Reference</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a comprehensive workforce development plan (the Plan) taking into account the planned major resource, energy and related infrastructure projects in Australia and their employment and skill requirements. This will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examining the projects that are coming on stream over the next five years; mapping the geographic location of jobs, the number and type of jobs, the skills and quantity needed for nominated durations; when workers will be required; what skill needs can currently be met.</li> <li>Recognising that Australian Government cannot direct proponents as to the timing of their projects, the analysis should also map the proposed timing and sequencing of project construction with the view to provide the best possible pipeline of labour and skills possible to meet these needs.</li> <li>An analysis of the expected supply of skilled labour from domestic and skilled migration sources and an analysis of the resulting labour or skill gaps. This work would build on industry skills surveys already undertaken (such as for the mining industry in late 2008) and state skill plans.</li> <li>An analysis of the current focus of existing education and training programs and recommendations where appropriate for future initiatives.</li> <li>An analysis of the initiatives already underway by industry collectively and individually to address labour and skill requirements, including initiatives focused on indigenous engagement.</li> <li>Consideration of the mobility of skills and the importance of FIFO skilled workers.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Develop a plan that addresses labour and skill shortage issues in the resources sector. This should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>harnessing existing education and training sector capacity</li> <li>identifying the role of skilled migration programs</li> <li>maximising employment and training opportunities for local communities, especially Indigenous people</li> <li>utilising employment services providers to ensure assistance to get unemployed people or retrenched workers into jobs, including increasing labour mobility</li> <li>upskilling or multiskilling through modified, innovative and accelerated trades and engineering qualification pathways</li> <li>removing jurisdictional barriers in trade qualifications (national skills recognition), particularly electrical/instrumentation and gas plumbing</li> <li>other measures that could improve national labour mobility, including strategies to reduce associated impacts on families</li> <li>recognising the requirement for FIFO workers</li> <li>recognising the important role of offshore fabrication</li> <li>housing, land release and social infrastructure in affected communities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Work with companies to develop the plan and to ensure each company has strategies in place to secure the skills and labour required.</li> <li>4. Broker arrangements with state and territory governments to ensure a responsive training system.</li> </ol> <p>Deliverables</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Analysis of resources sector labour and skill needs on a national basis over the next five years.</li> <li>2. Analysis of the expected supply of skilled labour from domestic and skilled migration sources.</li> <li>3. Analysis of the education and training sector's capacity to meet the needs.</li> <li>4. Recommendations to address the gaps.</li> <li>5. Templates to assist companies develop effective skills and workforce plans.</li> </ol> <p><b>Taskforce Members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Hon Gary Gray AO, MP (Chair), Parliamentary Secretary for Western and Northern Australia</li> </ul>	\$1.1million	1x SES Band 1 2x EL2 4x EL1 2x APS6 1x APS5	Completed	Minister Evans provided the formal response on 15 March 2011. It is published on the DEEWR website.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senator Glenn Sterle (Deputy Chair), Senator for Western Australia</li> <li>• Ms Kathryn Campbell, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations</li> <li>• Mr John Hartwell, Department of Resources, Energy &amp; Tourism</li> <li>• Mr Kruno Kukoc, Department of Immigration and Citizenship</li> <li>• Ms Stephanie Foster, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government</li> <li>• Mr Rod Camm, Skills Queensland</li> <li>• Dr Ruth Shean, Department of Training and Workforce Development, Western Australia</li> <li>• Mr Philip Bullock, Skills Australia</li> <li>• Mr Ken Scott-Mackenzie, Macmahon Holdings Ltd</li> </ul> <p><b>Industry Reference Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Belinda Robinson, Australian Petroleum Production &amp; Exploration Association</li> <li>• Mr Chris Fraser, Minerals Council of Australia</li> <li>• Mr Jim Barrett, Australian Constructors Association</li> <li>• Mr John Sutton, Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union</li> <li>• Mr Jeff Lawrence, Australian Council of Trade Unions</li> <li>• Mr Paul Howes, Australian Workers Union</li> <li>• Mr Dave Oliver, Australian Manufacturing Workers Union</li> <li>• Ms Minna Knight, Australian Mines and Metals Association</li> </ul> <p><b>Skills Reference Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Glenn Withers AO, Universities Australia</li> <li>• Mr James Barron, Group Training Australia</li> <li>• Mr Ray Barker, SkillsDMC</li> <li>• Mr Tony Noonan, Doorn-Djil Yoordaning Mining &amp; Construction</li> <li>• Mr Andrew Smith, Australian Council for Private Education &amp; Training</li> <li>• Mr Martin Riordan, TAFE Directors Australia</li> </ul>				
<p>3. Apprenticeships for the 21st Century Expert Panel Report: A Shared Responsibility – Apprenticeships for the 21st Century</p>	<p>Report Commissioned 9 June 2010. Report provided to Government- 31 January 2011. Public release 21 February 2011.</p> <p><b>Terms of Reference</b> The Economic Benefits of the Australian Apprenticeships System</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An economic comparison of the current apprenticeships model of skills formation to other forms of education and training and other models of delivery and support from international experience. The panel should consider issues such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution of apprenticeship training and outcomes to the Australian economy.</li> <li>• Financing of education and training costs in this market.</li> <li>• Completion rates across different education models and factors influencing completion rates.</li> <li>• Duration and quality of the training including mechanisms for the delivery of training (on-the-job; off-the job; mixed; flexibility of training).</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. The economic sustainability of the current Australian Apprenticeships model. The panel should consider issues such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The scope for reform of apprenticeships incentives to support the improvement of skills formation and participation in both the supply and demand sides of the market.</li> <li>• Regulatory and other constraints on the economically-efficient operation of the Australian Apprenticeships system.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. The interaction of the apprenticeships system with the economic cycle. The panel may consider if the current structural settings best protect the Australian economy from compounding skill shortages resulting from these cyclical changes in the economy.</li> </ol>	<p>The cost of supporting the expert panel, including the development of its report was \$351,170.</p>	<p>1 x SES Band 1 1 x EL 2 5 x EL 1 1 x APS 6 1 x Graduate</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Initial direction setting response provided on 10 May 2011.</p> <p>The substantive response is to be provided later in 2011.</p>

	<p>4. The accrual of economic costs and benefits in the apprenticeships system to apprentices, employers/industry, Government and the broader economy, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆Apprentice wages (including on-costs), supervision and training costs, materials wastage, administration and extra maintenance, productivity and output produced, the length of the apprenticeship and the value of government and non-government subsidies.</li> <li>◆The economic benefits of the skills formation of the apprenticeships to apprentices; employer/industry and Government in particular the wage premium attracted by the apprenticeship and the implied rate of return on the investment, over history and in comparison to the area of return to other forms of education investment.</li> <li>◆The incidence and quantum of the burden of non-completion rates.</li> </ul> <p>5. Scope to align the support provided by all levels of government to deliver a modern apprenticeships system.</p> <p>6. The interaction of the Australian Apprenticeships system with the system and structure of industrial awards and other employment regulation for apprentices. Factors to be examined will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆The competency-based progression through award classifications.</li> <li>◆The provision of rates for adult apprentices.</li> <li>◆Provisions dealing with payment by employers of training and tool costs.</li> <li>◆The appropriate quantum of remuneration to be provided to apprentices, having regard to the role of lower wages as a regulatory subsidy/ incentive for employers to train, the needs of apprentices.</li> <li>◆Any other factors relevant to setting minimum wages and other award conditions (such as living away from home arrangements) relevant to the rates of offering and completion of apprenticeships.</li> <li>◆Any barriers or incentives to skills formation that arise from the interaction of the two systems.</li> </ul> <p><b>Committee Members:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Jim McDowell, Chair</li> <li>• Mr Dave Oliver</li> <li>• Ms Marie Persson</li> <li>• Mr Royce Fairbrother</li> <li>• Ms Simone Wetzler</li> <li>• Dr John Buchanan</li> <li>• Mr Tim Shipstone</li> </ul>				
<p>4. Building the Education Revolution Taskforce Interim Report</p>	<p>The Building the Education Revolution Taskforce (the Taskforce) was established on 3 May 2010. An interim report was handed to government and released in August 2010.</p> <p>The Taskforce terms of reference included responsibility for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Receiving, investigating and responding to complaints regarding the full operation of BER, including individual school projects, in particular <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) by referring complains or evidence of potential breaches of the law, regulations or guidelines to the appropriate authority for action; and</li> <li>b) ensuring arrangements are in place between the Commonwealth and states and territories to minimise duplication of complaints handling processes.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Assessing value for money aspects of individual projects, including project oversight and administration;</li> <li>3. Investigating and assessing at its own discretion areas of the operation of BER, especially as they impinge on the outcome of projects at schools; and</li> <li>4. Making recommendations to the responsible authority about changes to policy, contracts or</li> </ol>	<p>Entire funding for taskforce is \$13.2 million over 2 years</p>	<p>12.4 Staff comprised of 1 x SES 2 x EL2 6.4 x EL1 2 x AP6 1 x APS5</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>All recommendations have been agreed to.</p>

	<p>projects required to ensure the objective of the BER are realised.</p> <p>In undertaking these tasks the Taskforce has been directed by the Australian Government to report publicly on the nature, progress and results of investigations and inform the Australian Government of recommendations for changes to policy, contracts or projects required to ensure the objectives of the BER are realised.</p> <p>The Taskforce has supplemented its core specialist resources through a range of mechanisms including establishing an independent Industry Advisory Panel who membership is details in Appendix 4 of the Interim Report.</p>				
5. Building the Education Revolution Taskforce First Report	The Taskforce First Report was handed to government and released in December 2010. (All other details as above).	Included above	As above	As above	As above
6. Skills Australia 2011 interim report on resources sector skill needs	<p>Recommendation 1.3 from the National Resources Sector Employment Taskforce (NRSET) report was for Skills Australia to "report annually through the Ministerial Council for Tertiary Education and Employment to the Ministerial Council for Mineral and Petroleum Resources and the Ministerial Council on Energy on the status of skills shortages in the resources sector."</p> <p>In response to recommendation 1.3 of the NRSET report, the Government requested that Skills Australia provide an annual report on the status of skills shortages in the resources sector. The purpose of this research is to highlight the current and projected skills shortages in the resources sector so as to increase the ability of Government to assess workforce development issues and support policy considerations.</p> <p>The research considers a range of quantitative and qualitative data from a range of Government and non-government agencies. The research also involves a consultation process with relevant industry and non-industry stakeholders.</p> <p>An interim report was commissioned in April 2011. The report was provided to Minister Evans in May 2011 for noting.</p> <p>The report is due for release in mid July 2011 and will be published on the Skills Australia web site.</p> <p>The Terms of Reference for the Resources Sector Skills Needs Research Steering Committee are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide guidance on the scope and research methodology to be used to identify skills shortages both for the initial report and follow up reports</li> <li>• Agree the objectives and structure of the commissioned research</li> <li>• Provide input and guidance on appropriate engagement of stakeholders.</li> <li>• Ensure that this commissioned research can be delivered, within budget and project timelines.</li> </ul> <p>The committee comprises of representatives from the Skills Australia Board and representatives from the resources industry. They consist of the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keith Spence - Skills Australia</li> <li>• Phillip Bullock - Skills Australia</li> <li>• Michael Keating - Skills Australia</li> <li>• Gerald Burke - Skills Australia</li> <li>• Miranda Taylor - Australian Petroleum Production &amp; Exploration Association</li> <li>• Chris Fraser - Minerals Council of Australia</li> <li>• Ray Barker - Skills DMC</li> <li>• Jim Barrett - Australian Constructors Association.</li> </ul>	\$98,500	2 x EL2 1 x APS 6 1 x APS 5 1 x APS 4	Interim report due to be released mid July 2011	N/A
7. Skills Australia – Annual Report on resources sector skill needs	<p>Recommendation 1.3 from the National Resources Sector Employment Taskforce (NRSET) report was for Skills Australia to "report annually through the Ministerial Council for Tertiary Education and Employment to the Ministerial Council for Mineral and Petroleum Resources and the Ministerial Council on Energy on the status of skills shortages in the resources sector."</p> <p>In response to recommendation 1.3 of the NRSET report, the Government requested that Skills Australia provide an annual report on the status of skills shortages in the resources sector. The purpose of this research is to highlight the current and projected skills shortages in the resources sector so as to</p>	\$833,500	1 x EL2 2 x EL1 2 x APS 6 1 x APS 5	Annual report due to be released July 2012	N/A

	<p>increase the ability of Government to assess workforce development issues and support policy considerations.</p> <p>The research considers a range of quantitative and qualitative data from a range of Government and non-government agencies. The research also involves a consultation process with relevant industry and non-industry stakeholders.</p> <p>The annual reporting was commissioned in April 2011 with the first annual report due for release in mid July 2012. The report will be published on the Skills Australia web site.</p> <p>The Terms of Reference for the Resources Sector Skills Needs Research Steering Committee are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide guidance on the scope and research methodology to be used to identify skills shortages both for the initial report and follow up reports</li> <li>• Agree the objectives and structure of the commissioned research</li> <li>• Provide input and guidance on appropriate engagement of stakeholders.</li> <li>• Ensure that this commissioned research can be delivered, within budget and project timelines.</li> </ul> <p>The committee comprises of representatives from the Skills Australia Board and representatives from the resources industry. They consist of the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keith Spence - Skills Australia</li> <li>• Phillip Bullock - Skills Australia</li> <li>• Michael Keating - Skills Australia</li> <li>• Gerald Burke - Skills Australia</li> <li>• Miranda Taylor - Australian Petroleum Production &amp; Exploration Association</li> <li>• Chris Fraser - Minerals Council of Australia</li> <li>• Ray Barker - Skills DMC</li> <li>• Jim Barrett - Australian Constructors Association</li> </ul>				
8. Impacts of the new job seeker compliance framework	<p>Review commenced 1 July 2010 Report tabled in Parliament 30 September 2010.</p> <p>Terms of reference were to review the impact of the compliance regime, as required by Subdivision G of Division 3A of the Social Security(Administration) Act 1999 (Subdivision G repealed 1 July 2011)</p>	<p>The report was developed following the review. The review cost \$115,000 in total – there was not a separate allocation for the report.</p>	<p>1 x EL 1 1 x EL2 The review panel consulted various executive level staff as required.</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>The Government addressed some of the Review's recommendations as part of the 2011 Budget.</p>
9. Report on Rural Tertiary Hardship Fund Selection Criteria	<p>Report Commissioned 20 October 2010. Reported handed to Government 7 December 2010. Public release 17 December 2010.</p> <p>Terms of Reference: By 30 November 2010, advise on the development of selection criteria for the allocation of one-off grants of \$5000 per student to be paid to 4000 students from rural and regional areas between 1 January 2011 and 30 June 2013 In developing the selection criteria, consider the following objectives: o stimulating participation in higher education in locations of particular educational disadvantage o improving educational outcomes for people from low socioeconomic status (SES) backgrounds o recognising the particular circumstances of individuals including (but not limited to) location, family circumstances and other assistance that may be available to the person.</p> <p>Rural and Regional Taskforce members The members were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor Tony Vinson AM (Chair)</li> <li>• Ms Carla Drakeford (President, National Union of Students)</li> <li>• Professor Sandra Harding (Vice-Chancellor and President, James Cook University)</li> <li>• The Right Reverend Dr Chris Jones (Executive Officer, Anglicare Tasmania)</li> </ul>	<p>\$10,493</p>	<p>1x SES Band 1 1x EL2 2x EL1</p>	<p>Finalised</p>	<p>17 December 2010 (<a href="http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Evans/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_101217_120000.aspx">http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Evans/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_101217_120000.aspx</a>)</p>

	• Ms Elizabeth McGregor (Institute Director, North Coast TAFE)				
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