

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2011–2012

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question No.EW0199_12

Senator Nash provided in writing.

Question

Indigenous Ranger Cadets

Indigenous ranger cadets The budget announced \$4.1m for Indigenous Ranger Cadetships over three years. • How will it lift year 12 attainment rates? • How many ranger cadetships will there be? • What are the employment opportunities in this field?

Answer

The Indigenous Ranger Cadetship initiative will lift Year 12 attainment rates by providing a further school based learning option for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students that is competency based and linked to the student's culture and local employment opportunities. This model will enable students to develop industry relevant skills for employment while at the same time working towards a nationally recognised vocational education and training qualification at the Certificate II level.

The number of cadetships will be known once participating schools have been identified. Up to 12 schools will participate in the initiative in the 2012 and 2013 school years.

The Indigenous Ranger Cadetship initiative will ensure that school students acquire the competencies to take up a ranger position where available. However, it is important to note these cadetships are not designed to fill labour shortages but are designed to promote school completion and build the pool of skilled candidates for future employment. These cadetships would not displace people from becoming Indigenous Rangers through the existing channels, but rather would provide another avenue through which students could become rangers.

It is anticipated that the majority of students would secure employment with state-based junior ranger programs and Indigenous ranger programs including those funded by the Australian Government's Working for Country initiative, the Indigenous Land Corporation, the Aboriginal Benefit Account, as well as through industry and Non Government Organisation sources.