Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2011-2012

Outcome 3 - Higher Education

DEEWR Question No.EW0412_12

Senator Nash asked on 1/06/2011, Hansard page 47.

Question

Funding For Australian Apprenticeship Workforce

Senator NASH: I have just been advised that under the Australian Apprenticeship Workforce Skills, the cessation of funding for the PPP is the reason for the reduction in the figures here in the forward estimates. Given that there is the shift in that funding to the new program, I am just interested to know where the funding is now showing up.

Ms Sakkara: It is a very complicated picture because the new funding is made up of a pool of money that has come from various savings measures including from what would have been the future of PPP. And it is difficult to interpret that from what is published in the budget papers. I am not sure exactly which table you are looking at.

Ms Paul: Can we take it on notice and just kind of draw a picture for you, because it is so complex to track. I would much rather take it on notice than try to unpick it here, and I don't have the CFO in the room.

Senator NASH: No, I am very happy with that.

Answer

Pages 148-149 of Budget Paper Two include a description of the *Building Australia's Future Workforce — Productivity Places Program — redirection of funding* measure. This measure sees PPP savings of $853.9 million over four years being redirected tosupport Governmentpriorities to achieve skills objectives comprising:

- $360.0 million over two years to fund the increase in the Trade Apprentice Income Bonus, as announced in the 2010-11 *Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook*,and other Government priorities;
- $94.5 million over three years to support the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme, which offers accredited small business training, business advice and mentoring, aswell as ongoing income support for up to 52 weeks; and
- $399.4 million over four years towards the *Building Australia's Future Workforce*package.