

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Outcome 4

DEEWR Question No. EW418_10

Senator Payne provided in writing.

Question

How much money has been committed or spent on contracts for RTOs to train Aboriginal Australians since the last federal election?

Answer

Closing the Gap in Indigenous Education is a key goal of funding for vocational training. Consistent with the National Partnership, Commonwealth funding for vocational training is based on allocation of resources to State/Territory jurisdictions for delivery of specified results and outcomes. As part of this approach agreed by the Council of Australian Governments, a number of disparate programs to support Indigenous Australians now form part of the overall National Partnership funding arrangements, accompanied by arrangements for ongoing measurement of the National Partnership and Closing the Gap targets. As such, it is not practical to specify input funding to Registered Training Organisations for Indigenous Australians

Furthermore, funding provided by DEEWR to Registered Training Organisations to train Indigenous people cannot always be specifically determined because many projects servicing Indigenous clients have not specifically identified these as a target group and/or some project information is not sufficiently detailed to identify funding sought for training components.

However three programs run by DEEWR have identified funding of Registered Training Organisations to train Indigenous Australians. These are:

Indigenous Employment Program

The information is not easily accessible as Registered Training Organisations are not required to identify themselves. However based on records of IEP providers who identified themselves as Registered Training Organisations there has been \$80,964,353 committed to training projects of which \$34,639,881 has been expended as at 12 November 2009.

Indigenous Youth Mobility Program (IYMP)

The program facilitates mobility options for Indigenous youth from remote areas to move to an area where there is greater access to further education such as Apprenticeships and Vocational Education and Training. The IYMP provides accommodation, mentoring, support and training to participants to ensure they are well equipped to undertake further education in their new location. From December 2007 expenditure for Registered Training Organisation IYMPs is \$3 236 591.

Job Services Australia

Between December 2007 and June 2009, training debits for Indigenous job seekers through Job Network (the forerunner of Job Services Australia) was \$29.9 million comprising \$16.8 million through the Job Seeker Account and \$13 million through the Training Account. All training provided to job seekers should be undertaken by a Registered Training Organisation and some providers do have this status which allows them to provide this assistance.