

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

**Outcome 2 – Schools and Youth**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0536\_13**

**Senator Nash provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Jobs Guides provided to Year 10 students**

1 Can the Department outline why it is they decided to cut the ratio of the program for the provision of Jobs Guides to year 10 students in particular? 2 What does the Department expect to save from a reduction of the ratio? 3 How is the ratio determined? 4 What will the average book/student ratio now approximately be? 5 Did the Department consider the impact such changes might have of rural and regional students who have limited access to other resources that might be supplied via the internet or other metropolitan- based career services, relying on having access to these individual guides to make future career decisions? 6 Has the Department considered making special arrangements for those rural and remote schools that rely on this resource for career discussion and career path planning more than their regional and metropolitan counterparts? 7 What have been the responses from Public, Private and Independent Schools, and their advocates, been to the announcement of the new ratio)?

**Answer**

1. The Australian Government recognises that the Job Guide is seen as a valuable resource and as such it produces it with Year 10 students as the primary audience. In 2010-11 the Australian Government commissioned the National Career Development Research Project which involved a series of research elements including focus group testing of over 5500 young people (within and outside the education sector), parents, teachers, career practitioners, employers and government representatives. This research identified that printed materials (such as the Job Guide) were not ranked by young people as the most useful tools in terms of career development.

Following this research the Department decided to trial a reduced 2012 distribution of the Job Guide from one book to every Year 10 student to the provision of class sets based on a sliding scale formula of Year 10 enrolment numbers at the school.

In December 2011, this decision was considered and fully supported by the National Career Development Working Group (NCDWG), which includes representatives from all state and territory governments and the Catholic and Independent school sectors.

2. The reduction in the number of Job Guide books printed in 2012 resulted in the Department making an annual saving of \$633 607.80.
3. Instead of providing a free copy of the book to every Year 10 student, the Department used a sliding scale formula based on Year 10 student enrolment numbers. Every Year 10 student will continue to have access to the Job Guide through class sets, CD-ROM and online.
4. The book per student ratio is based on the following formula:

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| Year 10 Students | 1-30 students = 1 book per student + 1 CD-ROM per school<br>31-100 students = 40 books + 1 CD-ROM per school<br>101-200 students = 60 books + 1 CD-ROM per school<br>201-300 students = 80 books + 1 CD-ROM per school<br>301-400 students = 100 books + 1 CD-ROM per school<br>401-500 students = 120 books + 1 CD-ROM per school<br>501+ students = 140 books + 1 CD-ROM per school |
|------------------|---|

5. The Australian Government acknowledges the unique needs of young people living in regional and remote areas and this change to providing comprehensive online information supports the direction of other major education reforms such as the digital curriculum, computers in school initiative and technology used by teachers. This approach is also consistent with the roll out of the National Broadband Network.
6. In addition to class sets, all schools are provided with the Job Guide CD-ROM, which is an electronic version of the Job Guide. Schools are encouraged to copy the information provided on the disc onto their computer network for use in the library or more broadly during classes. The Job Guide CD-ROM can also be freely burned and supplied to students wishing to use the resource at home. Online versions of the Job Guide can be found on the Internet at: [www.jobguide.thegoodguides.com.au](http://www.jobguide.thegoodguides.com.au).

In addition, schools can purchase additional copies of the Job Guide directly from the publisher, Hobsons.

7. The Department has recorded approximately 40 responses from schools, career practitioners and parents in response to this change. In each case, respondents received advice that this resource can be accessed online and via CD-ROM, reproduced for students free of charge, and additional hardcopies could be purchased. Although some career practitioners continue to advocate for the previous distribution arrangements, many schools indicated they would be happy to purchase additional hardcopies.