



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC STUDIES



ADELAIDE & FLINDERS UNIVERSITIES

Strategic Review of *South Australia Works*
Summary of Commonwealth Programs and Funding

Report Number 2

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Details on individual programs were provided by DEEWR, South Australia Office

Disclaimer: This study, while embodying the best efforts of the investigators is but an expression of the issues considered most relevant, and neither the Centre, the investigators, nor the Universities can be held responsible for any consequences that ensue from the use of the information in this report. Neither the Centre, the investigators, nor the Universities make any warranty or guarantee regarding the contents of the report, and any warranty or guarantee is disavowed except to the extent that statute makes it unavoidable.

Introduction

This summary of Commonwealth programs and funding refers principally to DEEWR programs. The list of programs and funding was jointly compiled by SACES researchers and state officers of DEEWR. It does not include programs or funding provided by other Commonwealth agencies that may be highly relevant to *South Australia Works* programs. A specific example is the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) funded by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

The document should be read as “work in progress” in that further details on individual programs such as details on eligibility criteria or the method of funding (e.g., application based, distributed by panel membership) could be elaborated on as required.

In many instances there are no specific state allocations for funding or places. The funding is allocated to a portfolio program line at the national level. In many, but not all cases, a “rule of thumb” is that South Australia could expect to receive one-eighth of the global allocation.

Programs for Indigenous and the Indigenous Education were sub-divided in the table and text on advice from DEEWR. The section on Early Childhood Education and Childcare is included because several of the programs support families and especially women in child care support, which may be a barrier to participation in adult education and training programs.

At the time of writing we were aware that DFEEST had initiated an audit of Commonwealth Employment and Training Programs, Services and Financial Incentives. That work can continue through the amalgamation of this report with DFEEST’s summary and further input from DEEWR. It could be extended to include other Commonwealth funding programs that are relevant to *South Australia Works*.

Table 1
Commonwealth Programs and Funding

Commonwealth Programs	National Funding	National Places	Tender, Grant, Application, Payment
Economic Stimulus			
(A) Jobs Fund (2 years)	\$650m		
(A) Nation Building and Jobs Plan (3 years)	\$42b		
Employment Services			
(A) Job Services Australia (3 years) ⁽¹⁾	\$4.9b	-	
(A) Innovation Fund (3 years)	\$41m		
(A) Employer Brokers (3 years)	\$6.0m	-	
(A) Local Employment Co-ordinators (2 years)	\$28.4m		
Training			
(A) Productivity Places Program (5 years)	\$2.0b	711,000	Application
(A) Targeted Productivity Places Program (PPP): for newly retrenched workers (1 year)	\$75.0m	10,000	Application
(A) New Enterprise Incentive Scheme Productivity Places Program (PPP) (3 years)	n.p.	6,300 p.a.	Application
(A) National Partnership Agreement on TAFE Fee Waivers for Childcare Qualifications	\$8.4m		One off payment
(A) Workplace English Language and Literacy (WELL)	n.p.	20,000 p.a.	Application
(A) Language Literacy and Numeracy Program (4 years) (aged 25 years +) (Additional \$, places)	\$28.2m	5,888	Tender
(BEN) Training Supplement (to benefit recipients)	\$74.1m	50,000 est	
(A) Green Jobs and Training	\$94m	10,000	Tender
Apprenticeships			
(A) Australian Apprenticeships Access Program (2009/10) (Additional \$, places)	\$44.73m	3,650	Tender
(A) Securing Australian Apprenticeship (2 years)	\$145.6m		Payment
(A) Securing Australian Apprenticeships and Traineeships through Registered Training Organisations			Application
(A) Australian Apprenticeship Incentives Program	\$678m		Payment
(A) Australian Apprenticeship Support Services Contracts (AAC) (5 years)	\$169m		Tender
(A) Group Training in the Trades Prevocational Program (GTTPP) (3 years)	\$3.41m		Tender
(A) Group Training Australian Apprenticeships Targeted Initiatives Program (TIP)			Application

Table 1 (continued)
Commonwealth Programs and Funding

Commonwealth Programs	National Funding	National Places	Tender, Grant, Application, Payment
Disability			
(D) Disability Employment Services (Replaces Disability Employment Network and Vocational Rehabilitation Services) 2010 - 2012	\$1.2b	-	
(D) Disability Support Pension Employment Incentive Pilot (2 years) 2010 - 2012	\$6.8m	1,000	
(D) Job Access (Information and Advice)	n.p.	n.p.	
(D) National Disability Co-ordination Officer Program (3 years)			
Youth Compact			
(A) Compact with Young Australians (3 years) 2010 – 2013 - Quality on the job workplace learning - Facilitating School, Business Community Partnerships - Youth Connections - National Career Development	\$623m		Tender Tender
Indigenous			
(I) Australian Employment Covenant (2 years)	n.p.	50,000	
(I) Reformed Indigenous Employment Program (5 years)	\$764m		
(I) Indigenous Wage Subsidy (under IEP)			
(I) National Partnership Agreement for Indigenous Economic Participation (4 years) 2009 – 2013	\$173m		
(I) Corporate Leaders for Indigenous Employment Program (CLIEP) – <i>under review</i>			
(I) Indigenous Cadetship Support			
(I) Indigenous Capital Assistance Scheme (ICAS)			
(I) Indigenous Youth Leadership Program (5 years) 2006 – 2011	\$36m		
Australian Technical College			
Australian Technical Colleges (3 years)			Agreement expires 31/12/09

Table 1 (continued)
Commonwealth Programs and Funding

Commonwealth Programs	National Funding	National Places	Tender, Grant, Application, Payment
Indigenous Education			
Building an Indigenous Workforce in Government Service Delivery (BAIW)			
Non-Capital Projects			
Parental and Community Engagement (PaCE) Program (3 years) 2009 - 2012	\$84.8m		
Sporting Chance Program (4 years) 2006 – 2010	\$19.6m		
Indigenous Youth Mobility Program (4 years) 2008 – 2012	\$32.0m		
Supplementary Recurrent Assistance (3 years) 2009 – 2012			
Indigenous Flexible Funding Pool (IFFP) (3 years) 2006 – 2009			
ITAS Provider Administered Vocational and Technical Education (VTE) Tuition (3 years) 2009 – 2012			
Reducing Substance Abuse (4 years) 2006/07 – 2009/10	\$5.1m		
Early Childhood Education and Childcare			
Child Care Benefit (3 years) 2009 – 2012	\$12.8b		
Long Day Care (LDC)			
Outside School Hours Care			
Family Day Care			
In Home Care			
Occasional Care (OCC)			
Inclusion and Professional Support Program (IPSP) (3 years) 2009 - 2012			
Inclusion Professional Support Program (IPSP) – Indigenous Professional Support Unit (IPSU)	\$4.5m		
Budget Based Funding (BBF) – Indigenous Services			
Non-Indigenous Budget Base Funded Services – Mobile Child Care Services			
Rural Care Worker (RCW) (8 years) 2002 – 2010			
Crèches			
Occasional Care Services (Budget Base Funded)			
Autism Related Care	\$190m		
Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) (5 years) 2008-2012	\$32.5m		
Universal Access to Preschool	\$970m		
Childcare Workforce Support	\$126.6m		

Table 1 (continued)
Commonwealth Programs and Funding

Commonwealth Programs	National Funding	National Places	Tender, Grant, Application, Payment
Panels (D) National Disability Recruitment Co-ordinator (3 years) 2009 - 2012 (D) National Panel of Assessors (Includes Ongoing Support Assessments, Employment Assistance Fund (replaces Workplace Modifications and Auslan for Employment service) & Supported Wage System)			

Note: (A) = All persons subject to eligibility criteria; (D) = Disability; (I) = Indigenous; (BEN) = On benefits; n.p. = Not provided. Implementation and concluding dates variable.

⁽¹⁾ Job Services Australia incorporates a range of services including job search assistance, work experience such as the Green Corps, the new enterprise incentive schemes, access to training and for those in Streams 2 to 4, specialist support to address their barriers to employment such as mental health support services, counselling, financial counselling and anger management.

⁽²⁾ Program line which includes AAAP totals \$223 million; AAAP is \$44.73m.

⁽³⁾ Funding and places shared between Adelaide, Port Augusta/Whyalla.

Table 2
South Australia

Commonwealth Programs	State Funding	State Places	South Australia Staff, Officer
<p>Economic Stimulus</p> <p>(A) Jobs Fund (2 years)</p> <p>(A) Nation Building and Jobs Plan (3 years)</p> <p>Employment Services</p> <p>(A) Job Services Australia (3 years)⁽¹⁾</p> <p>(A) Innovation Fund (3 years)</p> <p>(A) Employer Brokers (3 years)</p> <p>(A) Local Employment Co-ordinators (2 years)</p> <p>Training</p> <p>(A) Productivity Places Program (5 years)</p> <p>(A) Targeted Productivity Places Program (PPP): for newly retrenched workers (1 year)</p> <p>(A) New Enterprise Incentive Scheme Productivity Places Program (PPP) (3 years)</p> <p>(A) National Partnership Agreement on TAFE Fee Waivers for Childcare Qualifications</p> <p>(A) Workplace English Language and Literacy (WELL)</p> <p>(A) Language Literacy and Numeracy Program (4 years) (aged 25 years +) (Additional \$, places)</p> <p>(BEN) Training Supplement (to benefit recipients)</p> <p>(A) Green Jobs and Training</p> <p>Apprenticeships</p> <p>(A) Australian Apprenticeships Access Program (2009/10) (Additional \$, places)</p> <p>(A) Securing Apprenticeship/Traineeships (2 years)</p> <p>(A) Securing Australian Apprenticeships and Traineeships through Registered Training Organisations</p> <p>(A) Australian Apprenticeship Incentives Program</p> <p>(A) Australian Apprenticeship Support Services Contracts (AAC) (5 years)</p> <p>(A) Group Training in the Trades Prevocational Program (GTTPP) (3 years)</p> <p>(A) Group Training Australian Apprenticeships Targeted Initiatives Program (TIP)</p>	\$98.2m	56,000	<p>23.4</p> <p>1.6</p> <p>3.7</p>

Table 2 (continued)
South Australia

Commonwealth Programs	State Funding	State Places	South Australian Staff, Officer
<p>Disability</p> <p>(D) Disability Employment Services (Replaces Disability Employment Network and Vocational Rehabilitation Services) 2010 - 2012</p> <p>(D) Disability Support Pension Employment Incentive Pilot (2 years) 2010 - 2012</p> <p>(D) Job Access (Information and Advice)</p> <p>(D) National Disability Co-ordination Officer Program (3 years)</p> <p>Youth Compact</p> <p>(A) Compact with Young Australians (3 years) 2010 – 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality on the job workplace learning - Facilitating School, Business Community Partnerships - Youth Connections - National Career Development <p>Indigenous</p> <p>(I) Australian Employment Covenant (2 years)</p> <p>(I) Reformed Indigenous Employment Program (5 years)</p> <p>(I) Indigenous Wage Subsidy (under IEP)</p> <p>(I) National Partnership Agreement for Indigenous Economic Participation (4 years) 2009 – 2013</p> <p>(I) Corporate Leaders for Indigenous Employment Program (CLIEP) – <i>under review</i></p> <p>(I) Indigenous Cadetship Support</p> <p>(I) Indigenous Capital Assistance Scheme (ICAS)</p> <p>(I) Indigenous Youth Leadership Program (5 years) 2006 – 2011</p> <p>Australian Technical College</p> <p>Australian Technical Colleges (3 years)</p>	<p>\$99m?</p> <p>\$8.5m</p>	<p></p> <p></p>	<p><i>needs checking with DEEWR, funding</i></p> <p>36 places</p> <p>Agreement expires 31/12/09</p>

Table 2 (continued)
South Australia

Commonwealth Programs	State Funding	State Places	South Australian Staff, Officers
<p>Indigenous Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building an Indigenous Workforce in Government Service Delivery (BAIW) Non-Capital Projects Parental and Community Engagement (PaCE) Program (3 years) 2009 - 2012 Sporting Chance Program (4 years) 2006 – 2010 Indigenous Youth Mobility Program (4 years) 2008 – 2012 Supplementary Recurrent Assistance (3 years) 2009 – 2012 Indigenous Flexible Funding Pool (IFFP) (3 years) 2006 – 2009 ITAS Provider Administered Vocational and Technical Education (VTE) Tuition (3 years) 2009 – 2012 Reducing Substance Abuse (4 years) 2006/07 – 2009/10 <p>Early Childhood Education and Childcare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Care Benefit (3 years) 2009 – 2012 Long Day Care (LDC) Outside School Hours Care Family Day Care In Home Care Occasional Care (OCC) Inclusion and Professional Support Program (IPSP) (3 years) 2009 - 2012 Inclusion Professional Support Program (IPSP) – Indigenous Professional Support Unit (IPSU) Budget Based Funding (BBF) – Indigenous Services Non-Indigenous Budget Base Funded Services – Mobile Child Care Services Rural Care Worker (RCW) (8 years) 2002 – 2010 Crèches Occasional Care Services (Budget Base Funded) Autism Related Care Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) (5 years) 2008-2012 Universal Access to Preschool 2008 to 2013 Childcare Workforce Support 	<p style="text-align: center;">\$4.5m</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$4.8m</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$200k</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$4.5m</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$1.5m</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$391k</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$366k</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$587k</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$65.4m</p>		

Table 2 (continued)
South Australia

Commonwealth Programs	State Funding	State Places	South Australian Staff, Officers
Panels (D) National Disability Recruitment Co-ordinator (3 years) 2009 - 2012 (D) National Panel of Assessors (Includes Ongoing Support Assessments, Employment Assistance Fund (replaces Workplace Modifications and Auslan for Employment service) & Supported Wage System)			

Note: (A) = All persons subject to eligibility criteria; (D) = Disability; (I) = Indigenous; (BEN) = On benefits; n.p. = Not provided. Implementation and concluding dates variable.

⁽¹⁾ Job Services Australia incorporates a range of services including job search assistance, work experience such as the Green Corps, the new enterprise incentive schemes, access to training and for those in Streams 2 to 4, specialist support to address their barriers to employment such as mental health support services, counselling, financial counselling and anger management.

⁽²⁾ Program line which includes AAAP totals \$223 million; AAAP is \$44.73m.

⁽³⁾ Funding and places shared between Adelaide, Port Augusta/Whyalla.

Economic Stimulus

Jobs Fund¹

Program Description

The Jobs Fund is an Australian Government initiative to support and create jobs and increase skills through innovative projects that build community infrastructure and increase social capital in local communities across the country. The Jobs Fund is intended to support families and communities most affected by the global economic recession through investment in one-off capital projects (one-off grants of up to \$2 million) and seed funding for social enterprises.

Program Objectives/Aim

The aim of the Jobs Fund is to create jobs, build skills and produce long-term improvements in communities affected by the global economic recession. Projects will focus on directly generating jobs for people in communities with already high unemployment levels, rising jobless rates or which are particularly vulnerable.

Funding Period/Timeframe

Two Years 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2011.

National Budget

Australia \$650 million. There are three funding streams:

- **Local Jobs** - \$300 million of funding is available over two years for community infrastructure projects with a focus on the promotion of environment-friendly technology and heritage. Of this stream, \$60 million has been specifically set aside for heritage-related projects and \$40 million for the construction of bike paths.
- **Get Communities Working** - \$200 million of funding is available over two years. Seed capital will be available for self-sustaining projects which create jobs and provide activities and services to improve community amenity. A limited component will be available for Temporary Financial Assistance to non-profit organisations that provide vital support in the community and whose donor base is currently under pressure due to the economic downturn. \$11 million will be allocated for this purpose in 2008-09.
- **Infrastructure Employment Projects** - \$150 million of funding is available over two years to provide for investment in infrastructure projects which generate jobs in regions affected by the economic downturn.

There is no nominal allocation of funds to states, but rather applications are assessed competitively and funding awarded based on merit.

Organisations/Groups Funded

Non-profit organisations, employment services providers, industry associations, unions, peak bodies, regional development agencies, industry associations, local, state and territory governments, and community organisations will be eligible to apply for funding.

¹ http://home.deewr.gov.au/NewsItem_JobsFund_update.htm

Process

Projects will be expected to be self-sustaining and/or not require Commonwealth funding beyond 30 June 2011. The closing time and date for the first call for proposals was Friday 22nd May 2009. The date for subsequent calls for proposals are yet to be announced.

Jobs Fund projects must address at least one of the following four target areas:

- create jobs or retain people in jobs at risk due to the downturn;
- build skills for the future;
- build community infrastructure or improve community amenity which generates local jobs; or
- provide seed funding for social enterprises to start up, maintain or expand services, generating jobs and improving community services.

All projects must also meet a common set of gateway criteria:

- be in areas experiencing high unemployment, a significant rise in unemployment or vulnerability;
- be viable and ready to start; and
- be self-sufficient and/or not require Commonwealth funding beyond 30 June 2011, as funding will not extend past 2010/11.

Target Groups

Non-profit organisations, employment services providers, industry associations, unions, peak bodies, regional development agencies, industry associations, local, state and territory governments and community organisations.

Further Comments

Further information on the Jobs Fund including Jobs Fund Fact Sheet Jobs Fund Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions at:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/Pages/JobsFund.aspx>

Queries about the Jobs Fund can be emailed to Jobs.Fund@deewr.gov.au

Nation Building and Jobs Plan²

Program Description

Plan consists of:

- a new 21st century school library, multipurpose hall, or classroom modernisation for each primary school in Australia;
- new science labs or language centres for 500 secondary schools;
- grants of up to \$200,000 for individual school communities to fund much-needed maintenance;
- ceiling insulation for around 2.7 million Australian homes;
- increased rebates for replacing existing electronic hot water systems with solar and heat pump hot water systems;
- 20,000 new social housing dwellings;
- 802 new houses for the Australian Defence Force;
- urgent maintenance to upgrade around 2,500 vacant social houses;
- an additional 30 per cent tax deduction for small and general businesses buying eligible assets;
- 350 additional projects in the Black Spot Program;
- installation of more than 290 new boom gates at high risk rail crossings with \$150 million of funding;
- \$800 million to the Community Infrastructure Program. To be delivered in two components: \$250 million allocated between all councils and shires for Community Infrastructure Projects and \$550 million which has been determined on a competitive basis for Community Infrastructure Program – Strategic Projects;
- funding of \$711 million brought forward to accelerate 14 road projects;
- \$1.2 billion for the Australian Rail Transport Corporation to improve freight and passenger transport on the nation's railways;
- one-off cash payments to eligible families, single workers, students, drought affected farmers and others;
- a bonus of up to \$900 for those who earned less than \$100,000 in the 2007/08 financial year and paid tax;
- the National Green Jobs Corp is part of the 50,000 New Green Jobs and Training Places to build a stronger and greener economy initiative announced by the Prime Minister on 30 July 2009. The National Green Jobs Corps will work to give young unemployed Australians an opportunity to develop skills by doing work experience in new green and climate change industries.

Program Objectives/Aim

Nation Building – Economic Stimulus Plan is to support jobs and invest in future long term economic growth.

Funding Period/Timeframe

2009-2011.

² Copy of the National Partnership Agreement on the Nation Building and Jobs Plan available at: http://www.coag.gov.au/coag_meeting_outcomes/2009-02-05/docs/20090205_nation_building_jobs.pdf

National Budget

\$42 billion.

South Australian Budget (if known)³

None allocated

Organisations/Groups Funded

Process

Target Groups

Further Comments

For further information visit:

<http://www.economicstimulusplan.gov.au/pages/default.aspx>

³ http://www.dtei.sa.gov.au/coordinator_general/south_australian_worksk

Employment Services

Job Services Australia (JSA)⁴

Program Description

On 1 July 2009, a single employment program, Job Services Australia replaced a range of Australian Government employment programs, including Job Network, Work for the Dole, Job Placement, Employment and Training, Green Corps, and Personal Support Program.

Work for the Dole and Green Corps will continue on as key work experience activities under Job Services Australia.

Job Services Australia consists of:

- Stream Services, including specialist services;
- New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (NEIS);
- Innovation Fund;
- Employer Brokers;
- Harvest Labour Services (HLS); and
- National Harvest Labour Information Service (NHLIS).

Under the new system job seekers will be placed into one of four streams by Centrelink using the Job Seeker Classification Instrument and, where needed, a Job Capacity Assessment (JCA).

Program Objectives/Aim

Job Services Australia aims to increase employment participation, address skills in demand and help individual job seekers, particularly disadvantaged job seekers, find sustainable employment.

Job Services Australia will offer personalised help and services that are targeted to job seekers needs, provide more access to training opportunities and work experience. Providers are a mix of large, medium and small, for-profit and not-for-profit organisations.

JSA has improved the financial incentives for providers to achieve sustainable employment outcomes, particularly for the most disadvantaged job seekers. JSA Providers will emphasise skills development and training and will be required to provide support for social inclusion of job seekers through the use of partnerships and developing local solutions.

JSA providers are required to liaise with employers and to develop strategies to assist employers address skill shortages and labour needs. It is intended that JSA providers will work closely with local agencies – such as ESFN, RDBs – to develop specific skill development and training programs and work experience opportunities.

Funding Period/Timeframe

Three years commencing 1 July 2009.

⁴ <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/JSA/Pages/default.aspx>

National Budget

\$4.9 billion. This includes \$298.5 million to provide immediate services for workers recently made redundant through no fault of their own arising from the global economic downturn.

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

Funding to successful service providers.

Process

Through successful tender.

Target Groups

There are two main categories of job seekers who are eligible for stream services under Job Services Australia:

- Fully Eligible job seekers; and
- Partially Eligible job seekers (also known as stream 1 (limited) job seekers).

To determine eligibility for stream services Centrelink will use the Job Seeker Classification Instrument (and where necessary, a Job Capacity Assessment) to place job seekers into one of four streams based on their level of disadvantage and refers the job seeker to a JSA provider(s).

Fully Eligible job seekers are:

- recipients of Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other), including parents and people with disability who have part-time participation requirements;
- recipients of another form of qualifying government income support, such as Disability Support Pension or Parenting Payment (Partnered or Single), who volunteer;
- young people aged 15 to 20 years, not employed for more than 15 hours a week or in full-time education and not in receipt of income support;
- vulnerable young people who are full-time students aged 15 to 20 years who present in crisis and have at least one serious non-vocational barrier (they are only eligible for stream 4 services);
- Indigenous Australians participating in Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP);
- all persons who are not prohibited by law from working in Australia are eligible for services from Harvest Labour Service (HLS) providers;
- people not on income support who may be ineligible for most employment services but who choose to participate in Drought Force activities (Drought Force Only participants) can be assisted to do so; and
- from time to time the Australia Government may deem groups of people eligible for Job Services Australia, for example, people in receipt of labour market adjustment packages.

Partially Eligible or stream 1 (limited) job seeker are those job seekers who register with Centrelink or register directly with a JSA provider, who are not Fully Eligible and who are not full-time students, working in paid employment for 15 hours or more per week and not on income support, overseas visitors on working holiday visas or overseas students studying in Australia, or prohibited by law from working in Australia.

Stream 1

Job seekers who are work ready will be referred to Stream 1. They are entitled to:

- help with creating or refining a résumé, access to, and help with, job search facilities, an assessment of current skills and regular reviews of their circumstances;
- access to training;
- regular face-to-face meetings with their JSA provider;
- support in accessing up to 60 hours of intensive activity—these activities will be relevant to the individual job seeker and designed to improve their ability to get and keep a job. Intensive activities may include skills training, support overcoming barriers to employment, Work Experience, the Language, Literacy and Numeracy Program, the Adult Migrant English Program, or training in job search techniques; and
- if a job seeker is fully eligible for stream 1 services, they may also be able to access Work Experience Activities.

Streams 2, 3 and 4

Depending on a job seeker's initial assessment with Centrelink or their JSA provider, a job seeker can move straight into stream 2, 3 or 4. Streams 2, 3 and 4 job seekers get more intensive services. If a job seeker was initially placed in a lower stream and their circumstances change, they can be reassessed and if necessary move into a stream that offers a higher level of assistance at any time.

- job seekers with relatively moderate barriers to employment will be referred to stream 2;
- job seekers with relatively significant barriers to employment will be referred to stream 3; and
- job seekers with severe barriers to employment will be referred to stream 4.

Participation in streams 2 and 3 will be for up to 12 months, although it may be longer if the job seeker has been involved in training. Participation in stream 4 will be for up to 18 months, with an assessment at 12 months to determine the likelihood of the job seeker benefiting from the further six months of assistance. At the conclusion of a stream if job seekers have not found employment, they may be re-assessed and move to an alternate stream, or they will be required to participate in Work for the Dole or another work experience activity.

Each stream will have a Work Experience phase, although job seekers can participate in Work Experience Activities at any time. Irrespective of the stream Job Services Australia providers will:

- conduct an initial interview – Job Services Australia providers will assist the job seeker to prepare a résumé and advise them about local labour market opportunities, job search methods and access to the training opportunities;
- work with the job seeker to develop an Employment Pathway Plan (EPP);

- have regular face-to-face contact with the job seeker unless there are exceptional circumstances; and
- monitor the job seeker's attendance at appointments and participation in activities such as education or training and work experience, as set out in a job seeker's Employment Pathway Plan.

Employment Pathway Plan

Regardless of which stream service a job seeker is in, their JSA provider will work with them to create an Employment Pathway Plan (EPP) that is tailored to individual needs. This plan will set out the services and training that will help a job seeker to find and keep a job. This may include help to search for jobs; access work experience opportunities; gain new skills or qualifications; and overcome other barriers to employment.

JSA providers will negotiate EPPs with streams 2, 3 and 4 job seekers in their initial interviews and regularly updated as a job seeker's needs change.

Employment Pathway Fund

The Employment Pathway Fund (EPF) is a flexible pool of funds available to JSA providers to purchase a broad range of assistance to help a job seeker get the right training and other support to find and keep a job. The EPF replaces the Job Seeker Account used to purchase a range of support services.⁵

Some of the types of assistance which may be purchased under the EPF could include, training courses, work related clothing and safety equipment, short term travel costs, relocation costs to commence in employment, and other personal support services.

Further Comments

⁵ In 2008 Job Network providers in South Australia had an estimated \$25 million in the Job Seeker Account to purchase employment support services.

Innovation Fund⁶

Program Description

Innovation Fund projects will offer innovative place-based solutions to address barriers to employment for groups of the most disadvantaged job seekers. This could include people in locations with entrenched disadvantage, the homeless, people with mental health conditions, Indigenous Australians and job seekers in jobless families.

Program Objectives/Aim

Funding Period/Timeframe

The Innovation Fund is a three year program operating financial years 2009/10 to 2011/12.

National Budget

Funding over the three years of the program is \$41 million. There is no nominal allocation to states but rather applications are assessed competitively and funding awarded based on merit.

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

Innovation fund proposals must be submitted to DEEWR through or by a member of the Innovation fund panel (see website for up-to-date detail of members). Successful projects will be those that provide job seekers facing the greatest barriers to employment with genuine opportunities to become work ready and increase their chances of finding employment and serve as a model for service delivery by other DEEWR Employment Service Providers.

Process

Target Groups

This could include people in locations with entrenched disadvantage, the homeless, people with mental health conditions, Indigenous Australians and job seekers in jobless families.

Further Comments

Further information on the Innovation Fund, including panel members and the Guidelines for Innovation fund projects are available at:

⁶ <http://www.workplace.gov.au/workplace/Publications/PolicyReviews/NewEmploymentServices/InnovationFund.htm>

Employer Brokers⁷

Program Description

Employer Brokers are a component of the New Employment Services.

Program Objectives/Aim

The objective of the Employer Broker role is to engage with employers in a skill or labour shortage industry, or a specific location, to broker solutions that meet employers' needs and to co-ordinate and target the efforts of Employment Services Providers to matching the needs of job seekers with the labour requirements of employers.

Employer Broker activities will focus on industries experiencing skill or labour shortage, and disadvantaged locations, and will complement other Australian Government initiatives in these areas.

Funding Period/Timeframe

Three years commencing 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2012.

National Budget

\$6 million (\$2m in each of 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12).

South Australian Budget (if known)

Successful South Australian organisations have been announced.⁸

Organisations/Groups Funded

In order to receive funding for the Employer Broker activities, organisations must be a member of the Employer Broker panel. There are 25 organisations appointed to the Employer Brokers Panel for South Australia with a number located interstate. It is anticipated that interstate providers would have established links within South Australia.

Process

Allocated to successful panel members through successful project applications.

Target Groups

Further Comments

⁷ <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/JSA/Pages/EmployerBrokers.aspx>

<http://www.workplace.gov.au/workplace/Publications/PolicyReviews/NewEmploymentServices/EmployerBrokers.htm>

⁸ <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/JSA/Documents/List%20of%20%20panel%20members.pdf>

Local Employment Coordinators⁹

Program Objectives/Aim

The role of Local Employment Co-ordinators is to develop local responses to job losses and declining economic conditions. The specific roles of the LECs are to ensure there is a rapid response to helping workers who are made redundant, to co-ordinate government, community and business partnerships to stimulate local economies and generate new job opportunities, and broker agreements between the Australian, state and local governments in order to align efforts across all tiers of government and strengthen community links.

Program Description

Local Employment Co-ordinators will work with community stakeholders to identify and develop projects that are eligible for the Jobs Fund and that can be quickly implemented. The priority area identified in South Australia at the time of this report was Northern and Western Adelaide, and there is now another area in Port Augusta/Port Pirie/Whyalla region. These regions have higher than average unemployment rates and rely disproportionately on manufacturing and construction. The region is characterised by low educational attainment or skill levels of the population, including many who rely on unemployment benefits, or may have a history of experiencing difficulties particularly during previous economic downturns. Local Employment Coordinators (LECs) will be located in regions that are in most need of support, although project proposals are not limited to identified priority areas.

Funding Period/Timeframe

Period of two years, 2009 to 2011.

National Budget

\$28.4 million. LECs will be placed in 20 priority regions across Australia which have been identified as highly vulnerable as a result of the global economic downturn.

Priority areas in South Australia are:

- Northern and western Adelaide in South Australia; and
- Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Whyalla (i.e., Upper Spencer Gulf).

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

Appointed by DEEWR to regions where job losses have been experienced.

Process

Target Groups

Further Comments

⁹ <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/Pages/JobsFund.aspx>

Training

Productivity Places Program¹⁰

Program Description

National Partnership Agreement on Productivity Places Program.¹¹ The Productivity Places Program is part of the Australian Government's Skilling Australia for the Future initiative aimed at addressing skill shortages in the Australian labour market, and maximising individuals' employability. Training places are being delivered in an industry-driven system, ensuring that training is more responsive to the needs of businesses and participants.

Program Objectives/Aim

The program will provide additional vocational education training places over the next five years to ensure that Australians develop the skills they need to be effective participants in, and contribute to a modern labour market. Training is targeted at industries and occupations which have experienced skills shortages over recent years.

From 1 July 2009, the Australian Government's role in the PPP is to provide direct funding for two sub-elements of the PPP and these are:

- 10,000 Structural Adjustment Places (SAP) to support groups of recently retrenched workers (these places have also been referred to as TPPP); and
- 18,900 New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (NEIS) training places over 3 years (6,300 NEIS places per year).

Funding Period/Timeframe

Five years to 2012.

National Budget

\$2 billion. 711,000 training places over 5 years. 392,000 training places will be allocated to existing workers wanting to gain or upgrade their skills. 319,000 training places (including 20,000 structural adjustment places) will be allocated to job seekers.

South Australian Budget (if known)

South Australia allocated \$98.2 million from the Commonwealth with 56,000 places. The existing worker places are funded jointly between the Commonwealth, the States and Territories and industry. In South Australia the existing worker program aims to deliver 39,000 training places over 2009-2012, with funding from the Commonwealth contribution of \$58.5 million, \$46.8 million from the State Government, and \$11.7 million from industry. In South Australia the program aims to deliver 17,000 places to job seekers and is wholly funded by the Commonwealth at an estimated cost of \$39.7 million over the five years to 2012.

Organisations/Groups Funded

Funding direct to states.

Process

Funding is allocated on a competitive basis, with funding proposals required to:

¹⁰ <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Skills/ProductivityPlaces/Pages/default.aspx>

¹¹ http://www.coag.gov.au/intergov_agreements/federal_financial_relations/docs/national_partnership/national_partnership_on_productivity_places_program.pdf

- provide complete nationally endorsed qualifications issued by a Registered Training Organisation (RTO);
- identify employer skill needs endorsed by industry (and the qualifications must be included in the Priority Occupations List developed by DEEWR);
- deliver full qualifications for participants (rather than skill sets); and
- include a commitment for employers or industry to contribute a minimum 10 per cent of the agreed training cost.

These job seeker places are only available to participants who are referred by the following organisations:

- Job Services Australia providers;
- Australia Apprenticeship Access Providers; and
- Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) participants.

As with the existing worker program, training will only be provided in those occupations which have experienced skills shortages and are included in the Priority Occupations List developed by DEEWR.

Target Groups

There are three elements of the Productivity Places Program:

- existing workers;
- job seekers; and
- structural adjustment.

Further Comments

Targeted Productivity Places Program (TPPP) for newly retrenched workers¹²

Program Description

Additional PPP training places to help those who have been retrenched to update or up-grade their skills and improve their employability. The TPPP builds on the 10,000 Structural Adjustment places available in 2008/2009 for retrenched workers.

Training will be delivered by RTOs and will be available across a number of industries nationally.

Program Objectives/Aim

To provide additional training places for people who have been retrenched.

Funding Period/Timeframe

Commencing 1 July 2009 for one year.

National Budget

\$75 million for an additional 10,000 training places available through the Productivity Places Program.

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

Training to be delivered through Registered Training Organisations already contracted to deliver mainstream PPP training.

Process

Direct application through DEEWR.

Target Groups

Recently retrenched. People eligible for a training entitlement must be:

- 25 years of age or older;
- retrenched since 1 January 2009 and holding a retrenchment notice; and
- registered with a Job Services Australia provider.

Eligible people must be referred by a Job Services Australia provider and should already have a skills assessment through the provider and an understanding of the career or job pathway they are pursuing.

Places will be made available to candidates through priority access to the Productivity Places Program for Job Seekers or to TAFE SA courses, subject to admission requirements and course availability. Training places to be at Certificate III and Certificate IV level. Standard course fees and concession arrangements will still apply.

Further Comments

¹² <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Skills/ProductivityPlaces/Pages/TPPPForNewlyRetrenchedWorkers.aspx>

New Enterprise Incentive Scheme Productivity Places Program (PPP)¹³

Program Description

NEIS helps eligible unemployed people to start up and run new, viable small businesses. NEIS provides access to small business management training through the PPP which will allow the development of business skills and business plan development. Business plans need to be approved by a NEIS-PPP Trainee's NEIS provider before the NEIS-PPP Trainee can start operating their NEIS business.

Two qualifications only will be available to NEIS-PPP Trainees:

- Certificate III in Micro Business Operations (BSB30307); and
- Certificate IV in Small Business Management (BSB40407).

NEIS Training is a Centrelink approved activity. NEIS Training usually lasts for 13 weeks which allows for training and development of a NEIS business plan and can be extended if the NEIS provider decides that the NEIS-PPP Trainee needs more time.

Program Objectives/Aim

To support eligible unemployed people to start up and run new viable small businesses.

Funding Period/Timeframe

From 1 July 2009 for 3 years.

National Budget

18,900 PPP training places over three years (6,300 places per year).

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

Training to be delivered through Registered Training Organisations specially contracted to deliver PPP-NEIS training.

Process

These Job Seeker places are only available to participants who are referred by a Job Services Australia provider.

Target Groups

Unemployed.

Further Comments

¹³ <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Skills/ProductivityPlaces/Documents/NEIS%20PPP%20Guidelines%20-%202009-06-19%20pdf.pdf>

National Partnership Agreement on TAFE Fee Waivers for Childcare Qualifications¹⁴

Program Description

The Commonwealth will fund the States to remove fees from eligible child care qualifications provided at TAFE and other government training providers. The quantum of funding will be based on individual jurisdiction's fee models and fee profiles as provided to the Commonwealth.

Program Objectives/Aim

Funding Period/Timeframe

One-off payment by 31 January 2009.

National Budget

\$8.4 million. Provided to States as a one-off payment by 31 January 2009.

South Australian Budget (if known)

\$0.588m.

Organisations/Groups Funded

Process

Target Groups

Parents attending training at TAFE and other government training providers.

Further Comments

¹⁴ http://www.coag.gov.au/intergov_agreements/federal_financial_relations/docs/national_partnership/national_partnership_on_tafe_fee_waivers_for_childcare_qualifications.pdf

Workplace English Language and Literacy¹⁵

Program Description

The main aim of the WELL Program is to assist organisations to train workers in English language, literacy and numeracy skills. This funding is available on a competitive grants basis to organisations for English language and literacy training linked to job-related workplace training and is designed to help workers meet their current and future employment and training needs.

Funding is available for three types of projects - training projects, resource and strategic projects.

From 1 July 2009 additional WELL places will be made available to Indigenous Employment Program (IEP) participants as part of the reformed IEP. IEP participants may already be in employment, or they may be working closely with an IEP provider to develop their employability and secure employment with low literacy levels to improve their English language, literacy and numeracy skills

Program Objectives/Aim

Improve the level of literacy and numeracy in the workplace for existing workers.

Funding Period/Timeframe

National Budget

Will assist up to 20,000 workers each year. Employers interested in undertaking training projects are potentially eligible for three years of WELL funding. These must be applied for each year of the project, once the employer has formed a relationship with a Registered Training Organisation who will deliver the language, literacy and numeracy component integrated into the Vocational Education and Training. The employer or the RTO can be the grantee for the project.

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

Process

Competitive grant basis to organisations.

Target Groups

Workers with low literacy levels.

Further Comments

¹⁵ http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/training_skills/programmes_funding/Programme_categories/special_needs_disadvantage/well/

Language Literacy and Numeracy Program (LLNP)

Program Description

The Program provides high-quality, flexible training to eligible clients and caters for the increasing demand for English language training as well as the continuing need for literacy and numeracy training and vocationally-oriented training. Training is normally delivered face-to-face although a small proportion of training is delivered by distance mode. Clients are placed in the appropriate stream of training with the appropriate training focus following a pre-training assessment of language, literacy and numeracy competencies.

Program Objectives/Aim

The Program seeks to improve clients' language, literacy and/or numeracy with the expectation that such improvements will enable them to participate more effectively in training or in the labour force, and lead to greater gains for society in the longer term.

Funding Period/Timeframe

1 July 2006 to 30 June 2010.

National Budget

\$28.2 million additional over three years to provide 5,888 additional language, literacy and numeracy (LLN) training places for adults aged 25 years and over. This brings the total number of individuals assisted under the program in 2009 to 19,900.

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

Three Registered Training Organisations are funded to provider LLNP in South Australia.

Process

LLNP Providers are contracted through an open tender process.

Referring Agencies, currently Centrelink and Job Services Australia providers, refer clients to an LLNP provider. Clients attend training on a part-time (minimum of 10 hours and maximum of 19 hours per week) or a full time basis (minimum 20 hours per week). Training is delivered in blocks of 160 hours (or up to 450 hours for advanced vocationally-oriented courses).

Target Groups

Job seekers who are experiencing significant disadvantage in the labour market due to low levels of language, literacy and numeracy.

The Program targets clients from non-English-speaking-backgrounds (NESB) needing **language-only training** at three different levels, Initial, Basic and Advanced, including those seeking International English Language Testing System (IELTS) and Occupational English Test (OET) training. The Program also targets clients with **literacy and/or numeracy training** needs at two levels (Basic and Advanced). Training is also available to those clients needing specific advanced vocationally-oriented training.

Further Comments

Current contracts run through until 30 June 2010. A procurement process for arrangements from 1 July 2010 is likely to be run later in 2009.

Training Supplement¹⁶

Program Description

Temporary Training Supplement for Newstart and Parenting Payment recipients to encourage those Australians vulnerable to long term unemployment to undertake training.

The Training Supplement of \$41.60 per fortnight will be available to people receiving Newstart and Parenting Payment.

Program Objectives/Aim

To encourage Australians vulnerable to long-term unemployment to undertake training.

Funding Period/Timeframe

For people commencing approved training between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2011. The payment will be available until any approved training commenced in this period is completed.

National Budget

\$74.1 million. It is estimated that over 50,000 low skilled job seekers will take up this measure over the life of the initiative.

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

Process

Target Groups

People without Year 12 or equivalent qualification, or those who need to undertake training at the Certificate II level or higher to re-skill for the future.

Further Comments

¹⁶

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Gillard/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_090512_182153.aspx

Green Jobs and Training

Program Description

The Commonwealth Government announced on 30 July 2009 that there will be 50,000 new green jobs and training opportunities to build a stronger and greener Australian economy. The separate elements in the green skills are:

- 10,000 member National Green Job Corps – long term unemployed youth will take part in 26 weeks of green job training and work experience;
- 30,000 apprentices trained with new Green Skills – tradespeople will complete their training with practical job ready green skills;
- 4,000 training places for insulation installers – to help long term unemployed or disadvantaged people into the workforce through extra training and short term – stimulus funded – insulation installation jobs; and
- 6,000 new local green jobs – 6,000 new jobs contributing to environmental sustainability in priority local economies.

Program Objectives/Aim

To provide new green jobs and training opportunities.

Funding Period/Timeframe

National Budget

\$94 million.

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

Process

National Green Jobs Request for Tender released on 18 September 2009.

Target Groups

Further Comments

Apprenticeships

Australian Apprenticeships Access Program¹⁷

Program Description

The Australian Apprenticeships Access Program provides vulnerable job seekers who experience barriers to entering skilled employment with nationally recognised pre-vocational training, support and assistance. The Access Program is delivered locally by brokers and providers who work closely with employers to deliver training that meets industry needs. The program is provided at no cost to participants and assists them to obtain and maintain an Australian Apprenticeship, or to enter employment or further education or training.

The Program includes a minimum of 150 hours of nationally recognised, accredited pre-vocational training linked to an Australian Apprenticeship pathway and delivered by Registered Training Organisations (RTOs). Following the training period participants receive individualised intensive job search assistance for up to 13 weeks. Participants who gain an apprenticeship or other employment or commence in further education or training, along with their employers, receive 13 weeks of post-placement support.

Under the enhanced Program, participants will receive the same amount of training (at least 150 hours) and job search assistance (up to 13 weeks), however the amount of post placement support will be linked to an Access Program Participant Category (APPC). Category A participants will receive 13 weeks support; Category B participants will receive 20 weeks support; and Category C participants will receive 26 weeks support.

Program Objectives/Aim

To provide vulnerable job seekers experiencing barriers to entering skilled employment with nationally recognised pre-vocational training, support and assistance.

Funding Period/Timeframe

Three year contracts from 1 January 2010 will be offered and will include the option of extension for a further period or periods not exceeding six years in total, subject to Broker performance in the previous years, available funding and Broker agreement. Current Access Program contracts with existing Brokers have been extended for commencements until 31 December 2009 with an end date for completions of 31 October 2010 to enable business continuity.

National Budget

\$44,725,000 in 2009/10.

In March 2009 the Commonwealth, announced that it would expand and enhance the Access Program, investing an additional \$33.7 million in the Program (over the next three years). Key components of the March announcement were:

- 3,650 additional pre-vocational training places to be made available in the Access Program in 2009-10 for at risk young job seekers aged 19-24 years of age;
- enhancements to Program delivery, based on the principles of greater flexibility and better targeting of services; and
- modest increases in Broker outcome payments and an increase in the percentage of payable outcomes.

¹⁷

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Skills/AAAP/Pages/default.aspx>

In addition to these enhancements, an additional 1,850 places will be made available in the Access Program in 2009/10 for training and support for vulnerable workers aged 25 years and over made redundant through the global recession.

Access Program geographic coverage is divided into 17 Labour Market Regions and 116 Employment Service Areas on a State/Territory and metropolitan/non metropolitan basis.

There are 49 South Australian program providers listed on the DEEWR website.

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

Two brokers are currently funded to broker Access Program places in South Australia:

- Group Training Australia; and
- Mission SA.

Process

Brokers contracted through an open tender process.

Brokers organise Access Program course to be delivered by program providers. These are arranged on a program by program basis and require a range of outcomes to be delivered to attract funding.

Target Groups

People interested in becoming apprentices and trainees. Vulnerable job seekers who experience barriers to entering skilled employment.

Participants must be registered with Centrelink, or a Job Services Australia Provider as a job seeker, or have been referred by a Youth Pathways provider, a JPET provider, a Connections provider, a CDEP officer or an Indigenous Employment Centre (IEC) officer.

Must meet at least one of a number of conditions, for example, a person with a disability, an early school leaver, unemployed for one year or more, a person aged 45 years or older, Indigenous Australian.

Further Comments

DEEWR is currently in the process of purchasing program arrangements for delivery of services from 1 January 2010. The Access Program Request for Tender (RFT) closed on 18 September 2009.

Securing Australian Apprenticeships¹⁸

Program Description

This initiative supports out-of-trade apprentices and trainees to remain connected to the workforce and to maintain their investment in training. Financial support in the form of payment is provided to employers who create new opportunities for eligible apprentices to continue their incomplete training, or who successfully complete apprentices, at the Certificate III or IV level in skills shortage trades, or in selected Diploma or Advanced Diploma level qualifications.

The new payments are in addition to the suite of employer incentives already available under the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program. Employers of Australian Apprentices at the Certificate III level and above may already be eligible to receive \$4,000 in incentives comprising a \$1,500 commencement incentive and a \$2,500 completion incentive.

There is also \$20 million for the Skills for Sustainability Incentive for Australian Apprentices.

Program Objectives/Aim

To assist Australian Apprentices to maintain their investment in training and to remain connected to the workforce.

Funding Period/Timeframe

Two years until 31 December 2010.

National Budget

\$145.6 million. Up to an additional \$2,800. This would comprise a Recommencement Bonus \$1,800 (calculated at \$150 per week paid for 12 weeks) paid at the 12 week point after recommencement and an additional Completion Bonus of \$1,000 paid on successful completion.

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

Process

Funding direct to employers through Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program. Program administered by Australian Apprenticeships Centres who were contracted through open tender process.

Target Groups

Employers, including Group Training Organisations, who successfully complete an eligible apprentice on or after 1 January 2009.

Payments will be made through Australian Apprenticeships Centres and will be available for two years until 31 December 2010

Further Comments

¹⁸ http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/documents/Fact_Sheets/Fact%20Sheet%20-%20Securing%20Australian%20Apprenticeships%20-%20updated11Mar2009.pdf

Securing Apprenticeships and Traineeships Through Registered Training Organisations¹⁹

Program Description

This initiative allows apprentices and trainees to maintain the value of their investment in training by supporting them to complete the off-the-job component of their training by providing financial support in the form of payments to Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) to cover the cost of the off-the-job training component where an apprentice or trainee with an incomplete qualification has been made redundant.

All qualifications at the Certificate III and IV level are eligible for support under this initiative.

Diploma and Advanced Diploma level qualifications listed on the Higher Technical Skills list are also eligible.

RTOs will receive either \$1,250 or \$2,500 for each eligible apprentice or trainee who completes the off-the-job training component of their apprenticeship or traineeship.

Program Objectives/Aim

Funding Period/Timeframe

National Budget

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

RTOs delivering training under Contracts of Training.

Process

Direct payment to RTO, following application through Australian Apprenticeships Centres who were contracted through an open tender process.

Target Groups

Apprentices or trainees who have been made redundant from 1 July 2009.

Further Comments

¹⁹ http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/documents/Fact_Sheets/Fact%20Sheet%20-%20Securing%20Australian%20Apprenticeships%20Through%20RTOs.pdf

Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program and Australian Apprenticeships Support Services contracts

Program Description

The Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program (AAIP) supports employers and Australian Apprentices with a system of financial incentives to offer and take up employment-related training opportunities encouraging people to acquire and expand their working skills.

Employers may be eligible for standard financial incentives related to the commencement, recommencement and completion of apprentices. Additional incentives also exist for the employment of school based, disabled and matured aged apprentices and for the provision of apprenticeships in rural and regional areas.

Apprentices may be eligible for support including Course Fees, Tool Kits, Wage Subsidy, Wage Top-up and the Commonwealth Trade Learning Scholarship. Apprentices who relocate to take up apprenticeship opportunities may be eligible for up to three years of Living Away From Home Allowance. Apprentices with a disability may also be eligible to attract a wage subsidy for their employer.

AAIP is administered by Australian Apprenticeships Centres (AACs) under the Australian Apprenticeships Support Services contract.

Program Objectives/Aim

To develop a more skilled Australian workforce that delivers long-term benefits for our nation and our international competitiveness.

Funding Period/Timeframe

AAIP is funded on an ongoing basis. Australian Apprenticeships Centres are currently contracted for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 September 2011.

National Budget

National budget for AAIP in 2007/08 is \$678 million. National budget for payments to AACs is \$169 million (GST incl).

South Australian Budget (if known)

There is no State budget allocation.

Organisations/Groups Funded

AACs are paid on a Fee For Service basis to deliver the program. Apprentices may be eligible for personal incentives while undertaking their apprenticeship. Employers may be eligible for a range of incentives while employing an apprentice.

Process

Payments to employers and Australian Apprentices made by application to AACs. AACs contracted under open tender process.

Target Groups

Secondary students, job seekers and existing workers. Performance targets exist for Indigenous, older workers and people with disabilities. Employers, especially in industries experiencing skills shortages.

The program is delivered nationally by Australian Apprenticeships Centres under the Australian Apprenticeships Support Services contract. AACs assist employers and Australian Apprentices to claim any payments for which they are eligible.

Further Comments

Group Training in the Trades Prevocational Program (GTTPP)

Program Description

GTTPP provides funding to Group Training Organisations (GTOs) through brokered organisations to provide Australian Apprenticeship opportunities in trade areas.

Program Objectives/Aim

- GTTPP provides participants with pre-vocational training in the trades in order to gain the required pre-requisites to articulate into an Australian Apprenticeship in the trades.

Funding Period/Timeframe

Current funding period 2006-2009. The GTTP commenced on 1 July 2005.

National Budget

Total Contract Value \$3,407,250.

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

Brokers funded through open tender process and must demonstrate:

- strong links to group training; and
- quality strategies to deliver services and select and manage GTOs and/or RTOs as providers.

Process

Target Groups

Program focus on trade areas experiencing skills shortages, or where Australian Apprenticeships in the trades are being under-serviced,

- interested in gaining an Australian Apprenticeship in the trades; and
- ensure Centrelink activity testing compliance requirements are satisfied if undertaking pre-vocational training whilst on Centrelink benefits.

Further Comments

Group Training Australian Apprenticeships Targeted Initiatives Program (TIP)

Program Description

TIP encourages the development of transferable and sustainable models in new or under-serviced markets and seeks to strengthen the broader group training sector to have a national impact. Projects must focus on Australian Apprenticeship outcomes.

Program Objectives/Aim

TIP funds Group Training Organisations (GTOs) to undertake projects to generate quality Australian Apprenticeship opportunities and employ Australian Apprentices in priority areas that would not otherwise happen without intervention.

Funding Period/Timeframe

Funding for the Program is by annual appropriation and is implemented on a financial year basis.

Round 3: 2006-2008; and
Round 4: 2008-2010.

National Budget

Annual funding rounds (usually September)

South Australian Budget (if known)

Round 3 total for South Australia: \$404,140; and
Round 4 total for South Australia: yet to be determined.

Organisations/Groups Funded

Group Training Organisations; Group Training Australia Limited; Group Training State or Territory Associations.

Process

Organisations funded by application to DEEWR.

Target Groups

- Project Targets: Traditional trades; emerging, high technology and/or innovative industries; skills shortages areas; regional – those areas with higher unemployment; higher level technical qualifications;
- Client Target groups: Indigenous Australians, Adult workers 21+, CALD and/or individuals with disabilities;
- Interested in gaining an Australian Apprenticeship;
- Not participating in other government initiatives as follows:
 - Joint Group Program,
 - Group Training in the Trades Program,
 - Australian Apprenticeships Access Program.

Further Comments

Disability

Disability Employment Services²⁰

Program Description

The new Disability Employment Services will remain separate from the generalist employment services. From 1 March 2010, Disability Employment Network (DEN) and Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) will be subsumed into the new Disability Employment Services program, for which new Key Performance Indicators will be defined.

The new services will be based on two distinct demand-driven programs:

- Program A – for job seekers with disability, injury or health condition who require the assistance of a disability employment service but are not expected to need long-term support in the workplace; and
- Program B – for job seekers with permanent disability and with an assessed need for more long term regular ongoing support in the workplace.

These new Services will feature:

- eighteen months of tailored assistance with a further six months for participants with a capacity to benefit;
- a stronger outcome focus with greater rewards available when Disability Employment Services Providers find sustainable jobs for participants;
- new flexible options for ongoing support in the workplace;
- a simplified fee structure including quarterly service fees paid in advance;
- a reduction in red tape and administrative burden;
- more flexible assistance for employers, employees and participants through an Employment Assistance Fund; and
- the introduction of Ongoing Support Assessments, to be conducted by independent assessors.

The Disability Employment Services will be delivered across Australia under the Disability Employment Services and Employer Incentives Scheme Deed 2010–2012 (the Deed) by not-for-profit and/or for-profit organisations.

Tenderers will be able to bid for Program A. Tenderers will be able to bid to deliver Services for all job seekers as a Generalist Provider or alternatively, as a Specialist Provider delivering Services to a specific group of job seekers. Current providers of DEN services will be invited to treat with DEEWR for Program B Services.

In the new model existing caps on services will be removed and all job seekers with a disability will have access to individually tailored employment services while employers will have access to greater support.

The new services will give job seekers, and their families, greater certainty and allow providers to work with schools, hospitals and allied health organisations to place job seekers into work.

²⁰

<http://www.workplace.gov.au/workplace/Publications/PolicyReviews/DisabilityEmploymentServicesReview/TheNewDisabilityEmploymentServices.htm>

Program Objectives/Aim

To provide specialised employment help for people with a disability, injury or illness.

Funding Period/Timeframe

1 March 2010 to 30 June 2012.

National Budget

\$1.2 billion. Services will be delivered across Australia under the Disability Employment Services and Employer Incentives Scheme Deed 2010–2012 (the Deed) by not-for-profit and/or for-profit organisations.

Tenderers will be able to bid for Program A. Tenderers will be able to bid to deliver Services for all job seekers as a Generalist Provider or alternatively, as a Specialist Provider delivering Services to a specific group of job seekers. Current providers of DEN services will be invited to treat with DEEWR for Program B Services.

South Australian Budget (if known)**Organisations/Groups Funded****Process****Target Groups**

People assessed as having a disability.

Further Comments

Disability Support Pension Employment Incentive Pilot²¹

Program Description

The Disability Support Pension Employment Incentive Pilot will trial a new way of encouraging employers to offer employment opportunities to people with a disability and allow DSP recipients to demonstrate their skills.

The pilot is part of the Government's National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy.

The incentive will be paid to employers who engage DSP job seekers for eight hours or more each week for 26 weeks and who are being assisted by Disability Employment Services. At the end of the 26 week period, the employer can claim the wage subsidy from the Disability Employment Service provider that places the job seeker with them as part of the pilot.

Program Objectives/Aim

To pilot an employment incentive that will provide job opportunities for 1,000 Australians receiving the Disability Support Pension (DSP).

Funding Period/Timeframe

Commencement date 1 March 2010 to coincide with the start of the new Disability Employment Services, and will end on 29 February 2012.

National Budget

\$6.8 million that will provide job opportunities for 1,000 Australians who receive the DSP. Employers will be supported through wage subsidies of up to \$3,000 after the job seeker has remained in work for 26 weeks. Normal income taper rates will apply to DSP recipients who participate in the pilot.

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

Employers of DSP job seekers (≥ 8 hours per week for 26 weeks).

Process

Target Groups

Persons with a disability.

Further Comments

²¹ <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/Pages/DSPEmploymentIncentivePilot.aspx>

Job Access²²

Program Description

Job Access is an information and advice service funded by the Australian Government. It offers help and workplace solutions for people with disability and their employers. Job Access is an initiative of the Australian Government to support the employment of people with a disability. Job Access services are being put to tender as part of the Disability Employment Services tender.

Program Objectives/Aim

To provide information and advice regarding employment of people with a disability.

Funding Period/Timeframe

Ongoing.

National Budget

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

Process

Job Access services are being put to tender as part of the Disability Employment Services Tender.

Target Groups

People with a disability.

Further Comments

²² <http://www.jobaccess.gov.au/joac/home>

National Disability Coordination Officer Program

Program Description

Program to assist people with a disability access, and participate in, post-school education and training, and then subsequent employment, through a national network of 31 National Disability Coordination Officers. These officers offer information, coordination and transition support in order for people with a disability to participate fully in education, training and employment.

This program has three key objectives:

- improved transitions for people with a disability between school and/or the community and Higher Education and/or Vocational Education and Training (VET) and then on to subsequent employment;
- improved participation by people with a disability in Higher Education and VET, and subsequent employment; and
- improved linkages between schools, Higher Education and VET providers and providers of disability programs and assistance, such as those funded by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and other programs funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Program Objectives/Aim

Funding Period/Timeframe

2009-2012.

National Budget

31 Disability Coordination Officers nationally.

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

Process

Target Groups

People with a disability.

Further Comments

Youth Compact

Compact with Young Australians²³

Program Description

The Compact with Young Australians comprises a National Youth Participation Requirement, an entitlement to education or training places for 15 to 24 year olds, and changes to Youth Allowance and Family Tax Benefit making education and training a precondition for these payments. The Compact is based upon three core principles:

- anyone under the age of 17 must be earning or learning, you must be in full time school, training or work;
- if you are under the age of 20 and are not working, you will be provided with a training place with the first priority - a year 12 or equivalent VET qualification; and
- if you are under the age of 25 and you are not working you are guaranteed a training place to ensure you have the skills needed to be part of the recovery.

To support this new Compact the Australian Government will strengthen the conditions unemployed young people must meet to receive Youth Allowance.

Anyone under the age of 20 without a year 12 or equivalent qualification must be in education or training in order to receive youth allowance.

This same condition must be met if the parents of young people in the same circumstances wish to receive Family Tax Benefit Part A.

The Compact with Young Australians will be the foundation of a new National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions that will also drive longer term reform to ensure that young people stay engaged in education and training and attain a year 12 equivalent qualification.

The Youth Career and Transition arrangements are being consolidated and streamlined to remove duplication and overlap and make services easier to access for young people.

Program Objectives/Aim

To increase young people's engagement with education and training pathways.

Funding Period/Timeframe

January 2010 to June 2013.

National Budget

\$623 million. Contracts with existing Providers of youth, career and transition services are due to end 31 December 2009. Contracts for the new programs under the National Partnership will be in place from 1 January 2010 and will involve a range of existing programs being consolidated into four new streams:

- **Quality on the Job Workplace Learning** (\$93.1 million) a project payment to the States and Territories to support the implementation of reforms in the areas of multiple learning pathways, career development and mentoring;
- **School Business Community Partnership Brokers** (\$160.2 million) will improve community and business engagement with schools;

²³

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/JSA/Job_seekerSupport/Pages/youngPeople.aspx

- The new **Youth Connections Program** (\$250.9 million) will provide an improved safety net for young people at risk; and
- **National Career Development** (\$40.06 million) will include development of resources that it makes sense to undertake at a national level for the benefit of all jurisdictions.

South Australian Budget (if known)

Estimated cost of **\$99 million** for the 2009/2010 to 2011/2012 period. Funding of the Compact will result in the rationing of training places for those over 24 years.

Organisations/Groups Funded

Process

School Business Community Partnership Broker and Youth Connections providers from 1 January 2010 – Request for Tender process currently underway.

Target Groups

Young people 15-24 years. As of 1 July 2009 the South Australian Government begins the implementation of the Compact with Young Australians.

Further Comments

Indigenous

Australian Employment Covenant²⁴

Program Description

The Australian Employment Covenant (AEC) is a national private industry-led initiative which aims to bring Australians together to help close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in employment and employment opportunities.

Program Objectives/Aim

AEC is not a DEEWR program, but a private sector initiative with a contribution from DEEWR to support this initiative.

Funding Period/Timeframe

Initially proposed to be a two year focus until the end of 2010, may continue beyond this timeframe.

National Budget

The AEC's aim is the placement and long-term retention of 50,000 Indigenous people into 'Covenant Jobs' within a two-year period, being supported by a combination of private sector in-kind and financial support and Australian Government support.

Organisations/Groups Funded

South Australian approach by AEC currently under development.

Process

AEC officials based in Victoria have coverage for South Australia.

Target Groups

Indigenous Australians.

Further Comments

The Australian Government has agreed to support training and other support to enable unemployed Australians to be 'job ready' in partnership with private sector and in some jurisdictions, State Governments who are committing to providing jobs.

²⁴

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/Pages/AustralianEmploymentCovenant.aspx>

Reformed Indigenous Employment Program²⁵

Program Description

The reformed IEP supports a broad range of activities that are responsive to the needs of employers, Indigenous Australians and their communities. Support is available for activities that help to achieve the objective of the IEP and that offer value for money. These could include activities that will:

- encourage and support employers to provide sustainable employment opportunities for Indigenous Australians;
- encourage and support Indigenous Australians to take up training and employment opportunities, stay in jobs and enhance their future employment prospects;
- assist Indigenous communities, industry bodies and groups of employers to develop Indigenous workforce and economic development strategies that support local and regional economic growth; or
- assist Indigenous Australians to develop sustainable businesses and economic opportunities in urban, regional and remote areas

Program Objectives/Aim

The objective of the reformed Indigenous Employment Program (IEP) is to increase Indigenous Australians employment outcomes and participation in economic activities, contributing to the Government's commitment to halving the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous employment outcomes within a decade.

Funding Period/Timeframe

From 1 July 2009 for five years.

National Budget

\$764 million.

South Australian Budget (if known)

\$8.5 million (2009/10).

Organisations/Groups Funded

Employers, Indigenous businesses, Indigenous communities, Individual Indigenous participants and Employment and Economic Development and Business support panel members.

Process

There are a number of ways the IEP can provide support for activities.

Two panels have been established to assist in the provision of services under the IEP. Projects under the IEP can be supported through a member of either the Employment Panel or the Economic Development and Business Support Panel.

²⁵

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/Pages/ChangestotheIndigenousEmploymentProgram.aspx>

The Department may also support activities by directly contracting with an employer, Indigenous business or other organisation. This assistance can be provided through flexible packages tailored to applicants needs or through predesigned financial assistance. For more information, go to Section 4.

Indigenous individuals looking for a new job or interested in self employment can receive assistance from panel members. Registered job seekers can talk to Job Services Australia about what assistance IEP panel members may provide in their area. If job seekers are not eligible for assistance from Job Services Australia they can contact the Indigenous Employment Line on 1802 102 for more information about IEP services in their location.

Target Groups

Employers

Employers who provide, or are prepared to provide, training, career paths or ongoing employment for Indigenous Australians, or other related assistance that will contribute to increasing Indigenous Australians employment outcomes and participation in economic activities.

Indigenous businesses

Indigenous businesses, individuals, groups and organisations may be eligible to receive assistance under IEP if they are seeking to obtain the necessary skills and expertise required to develop their business idea, start or expand an existing business and develop the necessary skills and expertise to build economic and business viability.

Indigenous communities

Eligible Indigenous communities can be those that include representatives of a population of Indigenous Australians in an urban, rural or remote area who want to work together to improve employment and economic participation outcomes for the members of their community.

Individual participants

To be eligible for assistance under IEP, a participant must:

- be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent;
- identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander; and
- be accepted as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander by the community in which they live or have lived.

Further Comments

The reformed IEP Panel members can deliver activities broadly categorised as follows:

Employment Panel

- building the aspirations of Indigenous Australians;
- employer support services to recruit and retain more Indigenous Australians;
- organising, developing or providing training for Indigenous Australians;
- increasing employment outcomes for Indigenous Australians by workforce development.

Economic Development and business Support Panel

- business capacity building services;
- building the business aspirations of Indigenous Australians;
- business development and support services for individual, family, organisation or community based businesses; and
- Indigenous economic development.

Indigenous Wage Subsidy²⁶

Program Description

Indigenous Wage Subsidy (IWS) is an incentive paid to employers when they employ eligible Indigenous Australians on an ongoing basis.

Program Objectives/Aim

The objective of the Indigenous Wage Subsidy (IWS) program is to provide an incentive to employers to provide ongoing employment for eligible Indigenous job seekers.

Funding Period/Timeframe

IWS offers wage subsidies to employers of up to:

- \$6,600 (including GST) over 26 weeks for ongoing full-time employment (35 hours or more per week, or as defined as full-time in the relevant industrial award or certified workplace agreement); and
- \$3,300 (including GST) over 26 weeks for ongoing part-time work of at least 15 hours per week, every week.

From 1 July 2009, the subsidy will comprise two components:

- a set rate subsidy of \$4400 for full-time positions and a retention bonus of \$1100 after 13 and 26 weeks of employment; and
- a set rate subsidy of \$2200 for part-time positions and a retention bonus of \$550 after 13 and 26 weeks of employment.

The Retention Bonus is available for positions with job start dates from 1 July 2009.

Career Development Assistance of up to \$550 (including GST) is available to employers with IWS participants (with job start dates from 1 July 2009) who in enrol in an accredited training course, obtain a ticket (such as Stop/Go), or Licence (such as forklift) within their first 26 weeks of employment.

National Budget

Incorporated into the National IEP budget

South Australian Budget (if known)

Incorporated into the National IEP budget

Organisations/Groups Funded

Indigenous Australian and employers

Process

To apply for Indigenous Wage Subsidy (IWS) download an Application Form and email it back to waadmin@dewwr.gov.au, or fax your form to (02) 6276 9617, or post your form to:

²⁶

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Indigenous/Employment/Programs/Pages/IndigenousWageSubsidy.aspx>

Wage Assistance
Indigenous Employment Program Branch
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
GPO Box 9879
Canberra City ACT 2601

Target Groups

To be eligible for Indigenous Wage Subsidy (IWS), the job must be:

- paid under an Award or Certified Agreement;
- ongoing (that is, the employer knows of no reason why the position will not continue indefinitely);
- a full-time position of 35 hours per week or more, full-time specified in the relevant Award or Agreement OR a part-time position of at least 15 hours per week, every week for the 26 week subsidy period; and
- not receiving wage subsidy funding from any other government program (see guidelines for exceptions).

The employee must be:

- an unemployed Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander;
- if 21 years of age or over, receiving an eligible income support payment; or
- participating in a CDEP project – and consequently not in receipt of income support (the job must be outside of CDEP grant funding); or
- if under 21 years and not in receipt of income support, registered with Centrelink or a Job Services Australia provider as looking for work.

Further Comments

National Partnership Agreement for Indigenous Economic Participation²⁷

Program Description

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) National Partnership Agreement for Indigenous Economic Participation was signed in February 2009. This National Partnership will contribute towards halving the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

The National Partnership involves complementary investment and effort by the Commonwealth, states and territory governments to significantly improve opportunities for Indigenous people to engage in private and public sector jobs through:

- creating jobs in areas of government service delivery that have previously relied on subsidies through the Community Development Employment Projects program;
- increasing public sector employment to reflect Indigenous working age population share by 2015;
- building Indigenous workforce strategies into implementation plans for all COAG reforms contributing to the closing the gap targets; and
- strengthening government procurement policies to maximise Indigenous employment.

Program Objectives/Aim

The National Partnership aims to contribute to closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian employment outcomes and to maximise the opportunities for Indigenous Australians to fully participate in the economic opportunities created through new Government infrastructure and other investment and access to public sector employment.

Funding Period/Timeframe

The National Partnership Agreement commenced in February 2009 and expires on 30 June 2013.

National Budget

The Commonwealth will commit a total of \$172.7 million over five years for the Agreement, to provide sustainable employment in government-funded service delivery and programs through the conversion of CDEP positions into properly waged jobs (including \$15.0 million in 2008-09).

The States and Territories will commit a total of \$56.2 million over five years to provide sustainable employment in government-funded service delivery and programs through the conversion of CDEP positions into properly waged jobs (including \$4.3 million in 2008-09). Subsequent agreements in relation to creating properly waged municipal services jobs may involve further Commonwealth and State and Territory investment.

Commonwealth and State and Territory costs will be met with new money.

²⁷

http://www.coag.gov.au/intergov_agreements/federal_financial_relations/docs/national_partnership/national_partnership_on_indigenous_economic_participation.pdf

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

Process

The Commonwealth and States agreed on an implementation plan for each State in July 2009. Progress on the implementation plans will be subject to on-going COAG review.

Target Groups

Indigenous people.

Further Comments

Corporate Leaders for Indigenous Employment Program (CLIEP) *(Program Under Review)*

Program Description

The Corporate Leaders for Indigenous Employment Program encourages private sector companies to generate more employment opportunities for Indigenous Australians including by demonstrating leadership and example to others.

This program is under review.

Program Objectives/Aim

Funding Period/Timeframe

National Budget

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

Process

Target Groups

Further Comments

Corporate Leaders generally sign a general Statement and/or a Memorandum of Understanding with DEEWR regarding commitment to developing and implementing Indigenous employment strategies, including through utilisation of DEEWR Indigenous employment programs.

Indigenous Cadetship Support

Program Description

Indigenous Cadetship Support links full-time students undertaking a diploma, advanced diploma or their first undergraduate degree with employers who can give them work placements and ongoing employment once they finish their studies.

Program Objectives/Aim

Indigenous Cadetship Support is aimed at improving the job prospects of Indigenous Australian students.

Funding Period/Timeframe

Up to \$15,400 per annum is available to employers to support cadets with a living allowance and study-related costs, and to offset employer administration costs.

National Budget

Incorporated into the national IEP Budget.

South Australian Budget (if known)

Incorporated into the national IEP Budget.

Organisations/Groups Funded

Cadetship employers:

- provide paid work placements of 12 weeks for each year of the cadetship;
- support the cadet through their study and work placements, giving professional guidance and mentorship;
- employ cadets under an appropriate industrial instrument;
- intend to offer ongoing employment to the cadet once they successfully complete their cadetship.

Students are eligible if they:

- are enrolled in a diploma, advanced diploma or their first undergraduate degree course;
- are enrolled for full-time study at a TAFE college, or other registered training organisation or university located within Australia; and
- identify as an Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and are accepted as such by the community in which they live, or have lived.

Process

Register online at the Indigenous Cadetship Support website or call the Indigenous Employment Line on 1802 102 or visit www.deewr.gov.au/Indigenous.

Target Groups

Students are eligible if they:

- are enrolled in a diploma, advanced diploma or their first undergraduate degree course;

- are enrolled for full-time study at a TAFE college, or other registered training organisation or university located within Australia; and
- identify as an Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and are accepted as such by the community in which they live, or have lived.

Employers are eligible if they:

- are able to support the cadet during the cadetship;
- are able to provide paid work placements that would complement a prospective cadet's course of study; and
- have the capacity to provide continuing employment on successful completion of the cadetship.

Further Comments

Indigenous Capital Assistance Scheme (ICAS)

Program Description

The Indigenous Capital Assistance Scheme (ICAS) offers Indigenous businesses access to commercial finance, and culturally appropriate professional and mentoring support services. The economic opportunities created through ICAS may support improved employment opportunities for Indigenous Australians

Financial support for loans ranging from \$20,000 to \$500,000 is available over three years together with business advisory and mentoring support services.

Program Objectives/Aim

The economic opportunities created through ICAS may support improved employment opportunities for Indigenous Australians.

Funding Period/Timeframe

Financial support for loans ranging from \$20,000 to \$500,000 is available over three years together with business advisory and mentoring support services. Financial support includes an interest rate subsidy, a subsidy on part of the bank's application and establishment fees, and a professional and mentoring support services subsidy. Finance is available for business overdraft options, business development loans, and finance for capital items.

National Budget

Incorporated into the national IEP Budget.

South Australian Budget (if known)

Process

More information about how to apply for ICAS by calling the Indigenous Employment Line on 1802 102 or visiting www.deewr.gov.au/icas or www.westpac.com.au.

Target Groups

Indigenous businesses that may find it difficult to get a loan through normal commercial channels are eligible. Indigenous businesses must comply with the participating financial institution's lending criteria, and the ICAS eligibility criteria on the Westpac site: www.westpac.com.au [Go to Business Banking/Loans and Leasing].

Currently 22 Westpac ICAS offices manage the program in branches in all capital cities and regional areas throughout Australia.

Further Comments

Indigenous Youth Leadership Program

Program Description

The Indigenous Youth Leadership Program (IYLP) provides scholarships and leadership opportunities for young Indigenous Australians from remote areas. Applicants from rural and regional areas are also considered.

Secondary Scholarships: Scholarships of up to \$15,000 per eligible secondary student, per year, are available for tuition and accommodation costs at participating IYLP education Providers. The approved IYLP education providers for South Australia are Immanuel College and Rostrevor College.

Various opportunities will be offered to IYLP scholars for the development of leadership skills. The IYLP will assist with costs associated with these opportunities in addition to the scholarship. Schools and communities are encouraged to identify and assist eligible students to apply for this opportunity to participate in the IYLP.

Tertiary Scholarships: Scholarships of up to \$6,000 per eligible student, per year, are available for university course fees and other educational requirements.

In addition to the scholarship, various opportunities will be offered to IYLP scholars for the development of leadership skills, personal development, work experience and more. Costs associated with these opportunities will be funded in addition to the scholarship.

University and communities are encouraged to identify and assist eligible students to apply for this opportunity to participate in the IYLP.

IYLP scholars also receive \$4,660 per student per year for Study and Orientation tours and Practical leadership experiences.

Program Objectives/Aim

The aim of the IYLP is to afford Indigenous communities the opportunity to identify and select Indigenous youth who have high expectations and aspiration to develop leadership skills.

Funding Period/Timeframe

2006 – 2011.

National Budget

The program was expanded in the May 2007 budget from \$12.9 million to \$36 million.

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

IYLP is currently delivered by three organisations, The Foundation for Young Australians, Yalari Limited and the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership Development. Together, these organisations will assist up to 380 Indigenous youth with IYLP scholarships in 2009.

Process

Target Groups

Indigenous students that:

- demonstrate strong record of school attendance/work attendance and performance;
- demonstrate academic potential and/or a particular talent; and
- have family and community support.

IYLP scholarships requires that participants must:

- be Indigenous Australians;
- be generally from remote locations;
- be eligible to undertake secondary or university studies;
- be ABSTUDY eligible or eligible for Youth Allowance, Allowance for Isolated Children or AUSTUDY.

Further Comments

Australian Technical College

Australian Technical Colleges

Program Description

The Australian Government funded 24 Australian Technical Colleges across Australia in areas where there are skills needs, a high youth population and a strong industry base.

Program Objectives/Aim

Colleges cater for Years 11 and 12 students who wish to study for their Year 12 certificate and start an Australian School-based Apprenticeship (ASbA) whilst still at school. The Colleges support students through both academic and trade training; with mentoring, career advice and business and employability skills. Courses are developed with industry input to ensure that the training offered will be relevant for local needs.

Funding Period/Timeframe

2006-2009 (calendar years).

ATC/DEEWR Funding Agreements expire on 31 December 2009 and will not be renewed. During 2009 each College will commence transitioning to new, agreed operating arrangements for 2010 and beyond. These new arrangements are being announced by the DPM on a staged basis once agreement is reached with all necessary stakeholders for each College.

National Budget

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

Process

Target Groups

Year 11 & 12 senior secondary students

Further Comments

There are three Australian Technical Colleges in South Australia which commenced at the beginning of the 2007 academic year:

The Australian Technical College – Adelaide South commenced in February 2007 and operates as a new non-government senior secondary College. The 2009 enrolment target is 129 students.

The school is operated by Adelaide Training and Employment Centre (ATEC), currently a Registered Training Organisation, Group Training Organisation, Australian Apprenticeships Centre and a Job Network Provider. ATEC has refurbished the vacant West Campus of Christies Beach High School, 40km south of Adelaide, as the principal site for the College.

The College provides a fully integrated Years 11 and 12 academic and trade curriculum in-house that enables students to apply their academic education within an industry based

technical environment. Students will be undertaking trade training at the Certificate III level and paid work through Australian School-based Apprenticeships in:

- building and construction;
- metals and engineering;
- electro-technology; and
- automotive.

The College is supported by Electrolux and Mitsubishi, as well as other local employers and industry associations, including MacWeld Industries, B & R Enclosures, Fibrelogic Pty Ltd, the Housing Industry Association Group Apprentice Scheme, and the National Electrical and Communications Association.

The Australian Technical College – Northern Adelaide commenced in February 2007 and operates as a new non-government senior secondary College in a new, purpose built facility at Elizabeth West. The 2009 enrolment target is 307 students.

The Australian Technical College – Northern Adelaide was established by the Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide in partnership with the Northern Adelaide Industry Group, which includes leading manufacturing and industrial companies in the region - Steel Building Systems Pty Ltd, LR&M Construction Pty Ltd, Hirotec Australia, ZF Lemforder Australia, RAAF Workforce Development Unit – as well as employment and group training organisations.

The Australian Technical College – Northern Adelaide delivers an integrated Years 11 and 12 academic and trade curriculum that meets both South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) requirements and industry expectations. Students will be undertaking trade training at the Certificate III level and paid work through Australian School-based Apprenticeships in:

- metals and engineering;
- automotive;
- electro-technology;
- building and construction; and
- commercial cookery.

The Australian Technical College – Northern Adelaide also facilitates the development of information technology skills, career development, enterprise education, small business and employability skills so that students acquire the skills and knowledge they need to succeed.

The Australian Technical College – Spencer Gulf and Outback commenced in February 2007, operating as a multi-campus (Port Augusta, Whyalla and Port Pirie) new, non-government senior secondary College, with a 2009 enrolment target of students.

The Australian Technical College – Spencer Gulf and Outback was established by the Catholic Diocese of Port Pirie and the Upper Spencer Gulf Industry and Regional Development Group (USGIRDG). This includes NRG Flinders, OneSteel, EDI Rail and Zinifex Port Pirie smelter, as well as the City of Port Augusta, State Department of Education and Children's Services, TAFE SA Regional, and the University of South Australia - Whyalla campus. Announcements have not yet been made about future arrangements for the Australian Technical College – Spencer Gulf and Outback (as of 1/10/09).

Indigenous Education

Building An Indigenous Workforce In Government Service Delivery (BAIW)

Program Description

From 1 July 2007 the Australian Government will redirect ongoing funding to former CDEP host employers in the government and non-government sectors, and the TAFE sector, that agree to convert their former CDEP positions into permanent, identified positions.

Priority areas in South Australia – Adelaide and Riverland and immediate surrounds, South east South Australia and immediate surrounds, Port Lincoln and immediate surrounds, Port Augusta, Whyalla, Port Pirie and immediate surrounds, Murray Bridge and immediate surrounds.

Program Objectives/Aim

The position/s assist the provider to improve the education outcomes of the Indigenous community; and are identified for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander persons.

Funding Period/Timeframe

Funding will be available to approved Education Providers from 1 July 2007 to provide for a permanent, part-time wage, on-costs and a training budget for each converted CDEP position. Funding will be allocated on a calendar year basis, and paid twice yearly. Beyond 2008 the funding is only available to independent preschools with an Indigenous Education Agreement.

National Budget

Each contracted provider is paid per annum based on a per capita amount with a one off payment of \$6,000 to assist with professional training.

South Australian Budget (if known)

No specialised budget allocation.

Organisations/Groups Funded

Independent preschool provider in receipt of an Indigenous Education Agreement (IEA).

Process

Target Groups

CDEP participants in the preschool,

- are geographically located in one of the urban or large regional centres in which CDEP program ceased operation on 1 July 2007;
- hosted a CDEP participant for at least 15 hours per week for a period of 4 months or longer during 2007, or for a consecutive period of 12 months or longer between 2005 and 2007; and
- are willing to convert this CDEP position into a permanent position.

Further Comments

Capacity of providers to manage and deliver and achieving outcomes i.e., permanency for the former CDEP participants.

Non–Capital Projects

Program Description

Indigenous Education projects are special non-capital projects which advance the objects of the Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) Act 2000. (“the Act”). Providers receive funding under an Indigenous Education agreement (IEA). Funded providers must use Project funding to deliver the project described in the attached Schedule to the IEA. Approval for Indigenous Education Projects is normally sought from the Minister. Indigenous Education program funding may also be used to make a supplementary contribution to the operating costs of the State/Territory Indigenous Consultative Body or Support Unit.

The South Australian Aboriginal Education and Training Consultative Body is a state committee that aims to strengthen the links and engage Indigenous parent’s\caregivers and community in education, training and further education decision making. The AETCB engages with regional planning that enhances the achievement of educational, social and wellbeing outcomes of Indigenous students in schools, TAFE and higher education.

Program Objectives/Aim

Indigenous Education Projects may address any of the goals and objectives of the Act.

Strengthen the links to engage Aboriginal parents\ caregivers and community in educational decision making at all levels.

Provide high quality advice on all education and employment and training matters that impact aboriginal students, parents and community members.

Funding Period/Timeframe

2009-2012 quadrennial.

National Budget

Each State funded according to a formula based on previous years.

Organisations/Groups Funded

Education providers. Independent Indigenous Education Consultative bodies (IECB).

Process

Application based

Target Groups

- early childhood years;
- improving literacy and numeracy achievements, especially in primary school;
- improving school attendance;
- improving retention of students to year 12 or its equivalent; and
- improving transitions at critical points.

The Minister may, on behalf of the Australian Government, make an agreement with a person or body, including education providers, authorising the making of one or more payments to the person or body for one or more specified projects whose purpose is to advance the objects of the Act.

Further Comments

Capacity of providers to manage and deliver. Outcomes to be achieved by the projects conclusion.

Parental and Community Engagement (PaCE) Program

Program Description

The PaCE Program is a community driven program which focuses on the development and implementation of creative and innovative approaches to improve the educational outcomes of Indigenous school students through enhancing Indigenous parental engagement with schools and education providers.

The PaCE Program supports Indigenous families and communities to ‘reach-in’ to schools and education providers and to develop partnerships with them with the aim of enhancing their children’s educational outcomes.

Program Objectives/Aim

The PaCE program is intended to enhance the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities to:

- engage with schools and education providers in order to support improved educational outcomes for their children;
- build strong leadership that supports high expectations of Indigenous students’ educational outcomes;
- support the establishment, implementation and/or ongoing progress of community-school partnerships; and
- support and reinforce children's learning at home.

Funding Period/Timeframe

2009-2012.

National Budget

\$84.795 million has been allocated to the PaCE Program for the 2009-2012 quadrennial.

South Australian Budget (if known)

\$4,520,370.58 for the 2009-2012 quadrennial.

Organisations/Groups Funded

All approved funding must be through a legal entity as all approved PaCE providers must enter into a funding agreement with DEEWR. A legal entity is:

- a company incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001;
- a statutory corporation; or
- an incorporated association.

In exceptional circumstances, subject to their agreement, schools may be used to receive funds when no other type of legal entity is available.

Process

DEEWR Program Officers liaise with parents/caregivers and/or community representatives in the development of a project proposal. These projects must be able to demonstrate Indigenous parent and community demand. Proponents are also encouraged to develop

linkages with other government and non-government agencies, programs and organisations to see how they can be of value in the PaCE project.

PaCE does not use a competitive application-based process (supply), but rather parents and communities ‘demand’ strategies and funds to build their capacity to engage and partner with schools and enter into funding contract arrangements.

To ensure the integrity of the funding process, the approval process must demonstrate that other sources of funds have been sought, or that other streams are not appropriate. They are also required to demonstrate sustainability in project outcomes.

The DEEWR Program Officer recommends the project to the Branch manager for approval.

Target Groups

The PaCE Program is targeted to Indigenous parents of school aged children (generally ages 3-18) and Indigenous communities.

Further Comments

Defining areas of responsibility for the reach out (by schools) component of parent engagement and the reach in (by parents and community) component which the PaCE program supports.

Sporting Chance Program

Program Description

The Sporting Chance Program uses sport as a vehicle to increase the level of engagement of Indigenous children and young people in schooling. The four-year program to 2009 has two elements: school-based sports academies for secondary students and education engagement strategies for primary and secondary school students.

School-based sports academies will provide innovative and high-quality sports focussed learning and development programs, using sport as a hook to engage Indigenous students in schooling.

Education engagement strategies include sport and recreation focussed activities which also provide a range of education activities, covering, for example, healthy and positive lifestyles, mentoring and leadership, and exposure to community and sports role models.

Strategies which cater for students in remote areas and support gender balance in participation are particularly encouraged.

Program Objectives

- develop leadership, for example, through skill development in communication, problem-solving and teamwork;
- expand and enhance education and career pathways and options, including through individual case management;
- improve the health and well-being of learners, including self-esteem and confidence; and
- promote and support positive learning experiences that foster success.

Funding Period/Timeframe

Four year program to 2009.

National Budget

\$19.6m over 4 years 2006/07 – 2009/10.

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

- Rostrevor College Indigenous Sporting Academy (RISA);
- South Australian Aboriginal Sports Training Academy (SAASTA); and
- Stride Foundation Ltd.

Process

Target Groups

‘At Risk’ could include but is not limited to students who have been identified as having:

- low attendance rates;

- literacy and numeracy skills that are below that of their peers or national benchmarks;
- increased likelihood of dropping out of school;
- increased risk of non-completion to Year 12 or its vocational equivalent; and
- social and/or behavioural concerns.

Eligibility

School Based Sports Academies

- indigenous secondary school students ‘at risk’ of leaving school; and
- students must commit to and meet educational outcomes and/or improvements as set out by the academy.

Education Engagement Strategies

- Indigenous young people (boys and girls) enrolled in a primary or secondary schools.

Further Comments

Contract is managed by National Office (earmarked for program devolution).

Indigenous Youth Mobility Program (IYMP)

Program Description

The Indigenous Youth Mobility Program (IYMP) is helping the Australian Government to build effective partnerships with Australia's Indigenous peoples and to close the gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in education and employment outcomes.

The IYMP supports Indigenous young people who wish to move away from home to gain the qualifications they need to have a greater chance of obtaining sustainable employment, whether they chose to return to their home community or seek opportunities elsewhere.

The Program supports young Indigenous people aged 16-24 primarily from remote areas to relocate to an IYMP host location to undertake post secondary education and training options. IYMP participants have access to safe and supportive accommodation as well as receiving intensive case management as they learn the skills and gain the qualifications they need to embark on their chosen employment pathway. There is a strong focus on Australian Apprenticeships, Vocational Education and Training (VET) and higher education that leads to qualifications in nursing, teaching, business administration and accounting.

The Program is also helping remote community development by providing opportunities for those communities' young people to train for and return to jobs (if they so desire) that have often historically been taken up in Indigenous communities by non-Indigenous people.

Program Objectives/Aim

The IYMP contributes to closing the gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in post secondary education, training and employment outcomes. Particular objectives include to:

- provide greater access to quality education and training options for Indigenous people, particularly, but not exclusively, for those from remote areas;
- engage up to 1,500 Indigenous young people in Apprenticeships, vocational education and training and university courses over 2006 to 2012;
- assist as many of these young people as possible to achieve a Certificate III or above qualification during their participation in IYMP;
- deliver at least 324 accommodation places in participating IYMP Host Locations from 1 July 2009; and
- provide Indigenous people with qualifications for sustainable employment, including employment in remote communities.

Funding Period/Timeframe

The new IYMP arrangements will operate from 1 July 2008 – 30 December 2012.

National Budget

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

Under the new ‘one provider’ service delivery model, Aboriginal Hostels Limited (AHL) has been funded to deliver IYMP in South Australia’s two host locations – Port Augusta and Adelaide.

Process

Target Groups

The IYMP is aimed primarily at young Indigenous people aged 16 – 24 from remote areas. However, young people from major towns and cities can also participate if they can relocate to an IYMP Host Location to take up an apprenticeship, or undertake a VET or University course.

Key Issues

Attracting and retaining participants.

Further Comments

Eligibility

To receive assistance under this program, a young Indigenous person must generally be:

- aged between 16 and 24 years upon commencement of IYMP; and
- supported by her or his family/community as needing to relocate from their community in order to access nationally accredited education and training.

Supplementary Recurrent Assistance

Program Description

Supplementary Recurrent Assistance (SRA) provides supplementary per capita funding to education providers in the independent Indigenous preschools, and non government vocational and training (VET) sectors.

Providers receive funding under an Indigenous Education Agreement (IEA). Funded providers must use SRA to accelerate educational outcomes for Indigenous students beyond those which could reasonably be expected from mainstream and own source funding alone.

Each year, providers must report on educational outcomes in performance indicators and targets established during IEA negotiations, to demonstrate their specific contributions to improving Indigenous education outcomes.

Program Objectives/Aim

SRA supports all goals of the AEP and all 8 MCEETYA priority areas.

- improving Indigenous literacy;
- improving Indigenous numeracy;
- increasing employment of Indigenous Australians in education and training;
- improving educational outcomes for Indigenous students;
- increasing Indigenous enrolments;
- increasing the involvement of indigenous parents/community members in educational decision making;
- increasing professional development for staff involved in Indigenous education; and
- expanding culturally inclusive curricula.

Funding Period/Timeframe

2009-2012.

National Budget

Various amounts to each provider per annum on enrolment numbers at the yearly census.

South Australian Budget (if known)

No defined State budget.

Organisations/Groups Funded

Funding to non-government/independent Education providers, preschools and VET providers.

Process

Eligible providers have an Indigenous Education Agreement (IEA)

Target Groups

As in organisations funded.

Further Comments

Funding arrangements may change from 2010.

Indigenous Flexible Funding Pool (IFFP)

Program Description

As part of the 2006/07 Federal Budget the Australian Government announced that eight key portfolios would contribute a minimum of \$75m over 4 years to be used flexibly in the development and implementation of SRAs, RPAs, strategic interventions, communities in crisis, and other joint initiatives agreed with the State Government. These funds are intended to further support government engagement with Indigenous Australians where the responsibility for achieving outcomes is shared between governments and Indigenous communities.

Program Objectives/Aim

The funds are intended to be available for flexible deployment to respond to local needs identified by Indigenous communities, primarily through the SRA and RPA process. The IFFP is only to be used in the development and implementation of SRAs, RPAs or Whole of Government interventions where the relevant sub components will contribute to an education and/or training outcome.

Funding Period/Timeframe

2006-09. Current contracts until December 2009. Awaiting decision on funding beyond 30th June 2009 for amounts and processes.

National Budget

No amount: National Pool.

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

SANFL (APY Youth Multi Sports RPA).

Process

Target Groups

State and District office staff identify and develop proposals in collaboration with Indigenous communities based on Whole-of-Government priorities.

Reflect SRA/RPA principles; and contribute to education and training outcomes for Indigenous Australians.

Further Comments

ITAS Provider Administered Vocational and Technical Education (VTE) Tuition

Program Description

ITAS Provider Administered Vocational and Technical Education (VTE) Tuition provides supplementary tutorial assistance to Indigenous students undertaking Vocational and Technical Education (VTE) courses leading to the attainment of Certificate 111 or above. ITAS supports the Australian Governments policy position of reducing the education divide between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. The tuition aims to increase retention of Indigenous students to the end of compulsory schooling and to the end of secondary schooling.

VTE Tuition targets TAFE students, students enrolled with Registered Training Organisations (RTO) and students completing a new apprenticeship or traineeship.

Eligible students may receive up to 2 hours tuition per week for up to 34 weeks in an academic year. Education providers must ensure that tuition is delivered according to each students individual work plan and that tuition meets the students educational needs.

Program Objectives/Aim

ITAS is intended to accelerate educational outcomes for Indigenous Australians beyond those which could reasonably be expected from mainstream funding alone. ITAS Tuition assists students in support of the goals of the AEP.

VTE aims to increase VTE module and course completion rates, and encourage Indigenous students to complete courses at Australian Qualifications framework (AQF) Certificate 111 and 1V levels and in Diploma and higher levels of study. VTE tuition is intended to supplement mainstream teaching efforts and cannot be used to substitute or replace them.

Funding Period/Timeframe

2009-2012.

National Budget

A funding amount each year on the eligible numbers of students.

South Australian Budget (if known)

No budget, based on eligible enrolments.

Organisations/Groups Funded

In 2009 only Independent VET providers with an Indigenous Education Agreement are eligible.

Process

Schedule attached to an Indigenous Education Agreement.

Target Groups

Students enrolled in a formal TAFE course leading to Certificate III or higher.

Indigenous students who are enrolled in a formal VTE course or structured training program leading to the attainment of a Certificate III or above qualification; and in accordance with a funding agreement between DEEWR and a VTE provider.

Further Comments

Capacity of providers to manage and deliver and achieving outcomes in course/module completion. In 2009 only one South Australian provider is eligible: Tauondi College

Reducing Substance Abuse²⁸

Program Description

The project will operate in remote communities in the central desert – there is one project in the APY Lands in South Australia. This is delivered in a supported community setting whilst providing young people with help and support to deal with personal issues and build self-esteem and resilience.

Program Objectives/Aim

The objective is to implement an outreach education service aimed at engaging young people primarily between the ages of 10-20 who are affected by substance abuse and disengaged from school, TAFE or employment and provide them with pathways and access into a learning environment and pathways to further study.

Funding Period/Timeframe

2006/07 – 2009/10

National Budget

\$5.1 million over four years

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

Process

Target Groups

Indigenous.

Further Comments

²⁸

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Indigenous/Youth/Programs/Pages/reducing_substance_abuse.aspx

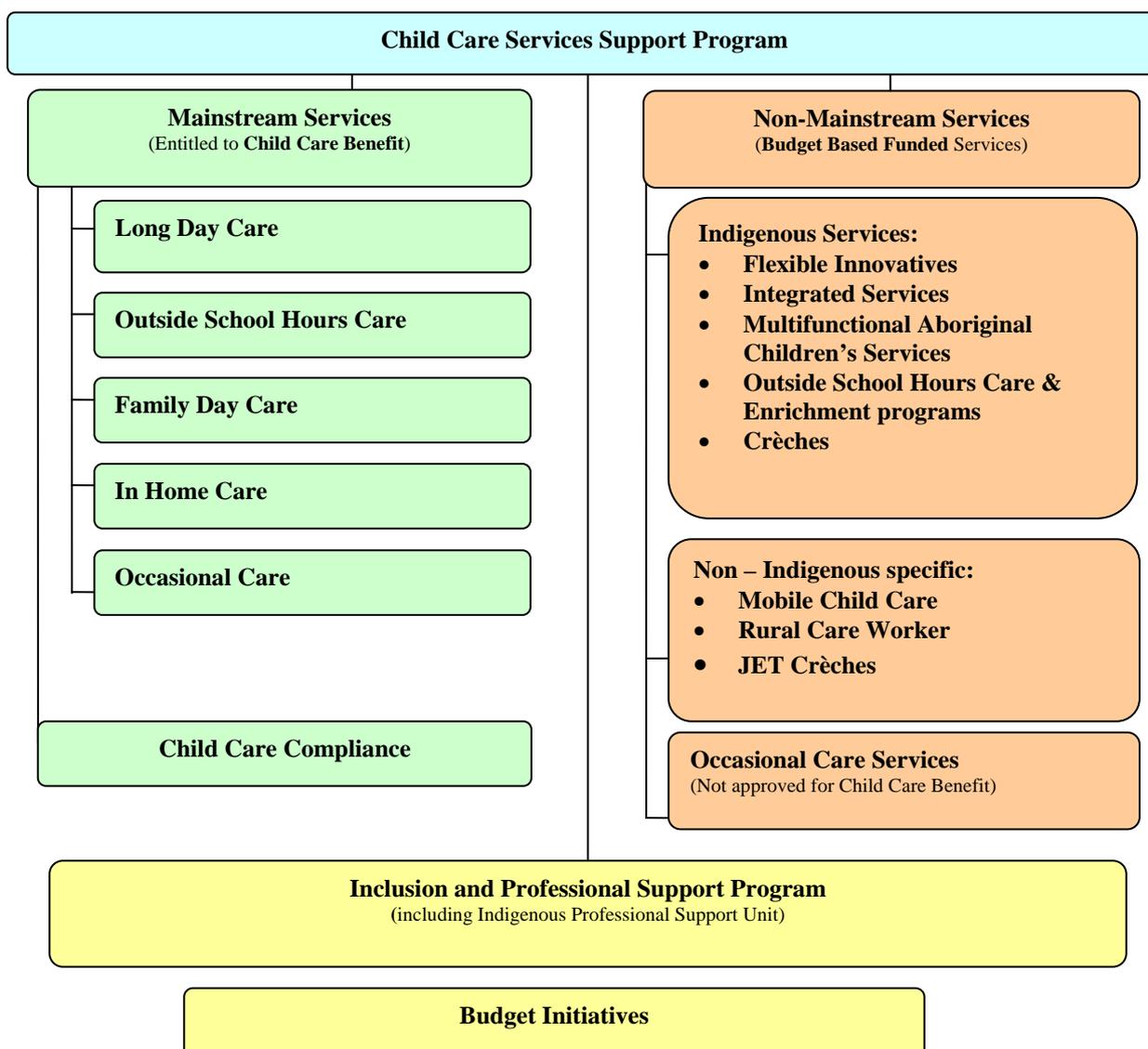
Early Childhood Education and Childcare

Child Care Service Support Program

The Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) administers the Child Care Service Support Program (CCSSP). The CCSSP supports and improves access to quality services that support early childhood education and care through the provision of support for child care services.

The program helps families to participate in the social and economic life of the community, it:

- promotes and supports quality child care;
- assists services to improve access and inclusion for children and families with special and/or additional needs;
- provides professional support to build the capacity of the child care sector;
- supports the sustainability of child care for all Australian children and families including in areas and/or circumstances; and
- develops, maintains and disseminates information to assist families to make informed decisions about child care and the related support programs and services provided or funded by the government.



Child Care Benefit

Program Description

Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR) provide financial support to families using approved child care services. CCB is used to reduce the weekly fee paid by families whereas the Child Care Rebate is paid on an annual basis. Eligibility for both CCB and CCR is income tested.

Program Objectives/Aim

The Australian Government's agenda for early childhood education and child care focuses on providing Australian families with high-quality, accessible and affordable integrated early childhood education and child care. The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) helps families to participate in the social and economic life of the community through the provision of support for child care services by:

- assisting families with the cost of child care; and
- ensuring Child Care Benefit (CCB) and the Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR) are provided to families who want to access child care to support their workforce participation.

Funding Period/Timeframe

Changes to Child Care Benefit rates and income thresholds, and to the maximum amount of CCR, occur annually. The Child Care Tax Rebate (CCTR) was re-named the Child Care Rebate (CCR) on 1 July, 2009.

National Budget

The Australian Government investment in CCB over the four years, 2009 – 2012, is an estimated \$12.8 billion .

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

Authority for approving long day care (LDC), family day care (FDC), in home care (IHC), outside school hours care (OSHC) and occasional care (OCC) services, and providing funding, comes from the provisions in:

- A New Tax System (Family Assistance) (Administration) Act 1999; and
- A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999.

When funding is approved, services are required to comply with the conditions and requirements in that legislation, eligibility rules and agreements.

Process

Since July 2006, the Australian Government has not restricted the number of new LDC, OSHC and FDC services or places that can be approved for the purposes of CCB. Restrictions do apply on approved places for Occasional Care services and In Home Care services.

Operators must continue to meet applicable state and territory licensing regulations and the statutory requirements for Australian Government approval. Eligible parents using these services can claim CCB.

Eligible services are required to participate in the National Quality Improvement and Accreditation System.

Target Groups

One of the main reasons the Australian Government funds child care is to meet the child care needs of Australian families. However, the demand for child care sometimes exceeds supply in some locations. When this happens, it is important for services to allocate places to those families with the greatest need for child care support.

The Australian Government has Priority of Access Guidelines for allocating places in these circumstances. These guidelines apply to centre-based long day care (LDC), in home care (IHC), family day care (FDC) and outside school hours care (OSHC) services. They set out the following three levels of priority, which child care services must follow when filling vacant places:

- Priority 1—a child at risk of serious abuse or neglect;
- Priority 2—a child of a single parent who satisfies, or of parents who both satisfy, the work, training, study test under section 14 of the A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1999; and
- Priority 3—any other child.

Within these main categories, priority should also be given to the following children:

- children in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families;
- children in families which include a disabled person;
- children in families which include an individual whose adjusted taxable income does not exceed the lower income threshold or who or whose partner are on income support;
- children in families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds;
- children in socially isolated families; and
- children of single parents.

In particular circumstances, additional CCB support is also available:

- Special CCB – is an extra ‘pool’ of funds provided to assist families on a short term basis where exceptional or emergency circumstances apply. This may include where a child is at risk of abuse or neglect, or where temporary financial hardship has been caused by loss of employment.
- Jobs, Education & Training (JET) Child Care Fee Assistance – to assist with the cost of child care for parents for parents receiving certain Centrelink payments (e.g. Parenting Payment or Carer Payment). Parents become eligible after entering into a participation plan negotiated with Centrelink, with the aim of engaging in education, training, or relevant pre-vocational and social participation activities aimed at making them ready for the workforce. Parents requiring access to child care whilst meeting their plan requirements may receive financial assistance over and above standard CCB.

Further Comments

Long Day Care (LDC)

Program Description

Long Day Care (LDC) is a centre-based form of child care service. LDC services provide quality all-day or part-time care for children of working families and the general community. For profit and not-for-profit organisations, local councils, community organisations and employers may run these services.

LDC services must comply with applicable State and Territory regulations and licensing requirements when providing care to children.

Program Objectives/Aim

Once approved for Child Care Benefit (CCB) purposes, a centre based LDC service must continue to ensure that:

- most of the children to be provided with child care will not have commenced school and attend the service at least one day a week;
- the service will operate on all normal working days in at least 48 weeks of the year;
- the service will be available to provide care for any particular child for at least eight continuous hours on each normal working day on which it operates, and
- where a child attends a session of care, the service will not prevent the child from attending any part of that session.

Eligible services are required to participate in the National Quality Improvement and Accreditation System.

There are three separate types of financial support available to LDC services depending on their eligibility:

- Set Up Assistance – is funding approved by DEEWR to help organisations in exceptional circumstances to establish new LDC child care services
- Sustainability Assistance – is funding to support small child care services in areas of need approved by DEEWR. It is targeted towards communities where a service is the sole provider of LDC, particularly in regional and remote areas, areas of socio-economic disadvantage, and services which provider places for children aged less than 24 months. The funding is intended to help communities retain access to child care where the operation of a childcare service is not likely to be financially viable without it. The level of funding is based on utilised places.

LDC services that received funding under the Long Day Care Incentive Scheme (see below) and Private Provider Incentive Scheme are not eligible to receive Sustainability Assistance.

- Long Day Care Capital Funding Program – is conducted by funding rounds, in which it is open to eligible LDC services to apply for capital funding to upgrade existing infrastructure to meet the needs of the community. The Capital Funding Program aims to enable existing services to deliver improved early childhood development and learning programs, a higher quality of care and/or to increase access to childcare by providing additional LDC places.

Eligible services must provide evidence that there is a demand in the community for the facilities or infrastructure that they propose to expand or upgrade. Additional criteria may apply.

Long Day Care capital funding cannot be used to establish a new service or to fund construction of a new service.

Funding Period/Timeframe

National Budget

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

Almost 300 Long Day Care centres operate in South Australia. Over 17,000 places are available.

Process

- subject to meeting eligibility criteria, applications for Child Care Benefit may be made at any time;
- applications for Set Up Assistance and Sustainability Assistance may only be made by services approved for Child Care Benefit; and
- Long Day Care Capital Funding Program is conducted by funding rounds. A call for applications will be issued to eligible services only. There is no specific timeframe for when funds are available.

Target Groups

The Australian Government funds LDC services to provide care mostly for children not yet attending school, whose parents are working, undertaking vocational study, training or looking for work. LDC services may also provide care for school children before and after school and during school holidays, where State and Territory Government regulations allow this.

Further Comments

Outside School Hours Care

Program Description

Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) services provide care before and/or after school and/or during vacation time. Some services may also provide care on pupil-free days during the school term. Not-for-profit and for-profit providers may operate OSHC services.

OSHC services focus on the provision of stimulating developmental, social and recreational activities for children, while meeting the care requirements of families. They are usually set up in or close to primary schools. They may also be in other locations such as community centres, halls, neighbourhood houses or recreation centres.

OSHC services must comply with applicable State and Territory regulations and licensing requirements when providing care to children.

Program Objectives/Aim

Once approved for Child Care Benefit (CCB) purposes, an OSHC service must continue to ensure that:

- most of the children to be provided with child care will be attending school;
- if the service provides before or after school care, the service will operate on each school day; and
- if the service provides vacation care, the service will be available to provide care for any particular child for at least 8 continuous hours on each normal working day for at least 7 weeks of school holidays in a year.

In addition to CCB, additional financial support is provided to some eligible OSHC services. OSHC services may also receive funding for:

- Set Up Assistance – is funding approved by DEEWR to help organisations establish new child care services. It is a one-off payment to eligible new not-for-profit and for-profit services to assist in meeting set up costs.
- Sustainability Assistance – is funding to support child care services in areas of need approved by DEEWR. The funding is intended to help communities retain access to child care where the operation of a child care service is not likely to be financially viable without it. Funding is a contribution to support viability, and is based on Equivalent Full-Time (EFT) utilised places.

OSHC Sustainability Assistance is targeted towards services in areas of socio-economic disadvantage, including rural and remote areas.

Funding Period/Timeframe

National Budget

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

In South Australia, there approximately 300 Outside School Hours Care services offering over 34,000 places (made up of After School, Before School or Vacation Care services).

Process

- subject to meeting eligibility criteria, applications for Child Care Benefit may be made at any time; and
- applications for Set Up Assistance and Sustainability Assistance may only be made by services approved for Child Care Benefit.

Target Groups

OSHC services provide child care mostly for children attending school, but can care for children who have not started school. However, as a general rule, when an OSHC service fills vacant places, it must give school children priority over children who have not yet started school. An OSHC service has the discretion to provide child care to children with high support needs and disabilities.

Further Comments

Family Day Care

Program Description

Family Day Care (FDC) is a mainstream child care program based in a carer's home. FDC Schemes provide childcare for children aged between 0 to 16 years. The majority of children are preschool but there are also significant numbers of children in Out of School Hours and Vacation Care.

The main area of differentiation with other child care types is that the care can be offered day and night and also on weekends making it suitable for shift workers. It also offers a home based environment which suits the needs of some children and families far more than child care centres. Significant numbers of parents are offered respite care for their disabled child.

A Family Day Care service is responsible for the effective operation of all components of FDC, including recruiting, training and supporting carers, monitoring care provision and providing advice, support and information for parents. The service also assists parents to select an appropriate FDC carer for their child.

Program Objectives/Aim

Once approved for Child Care Benefit (CCB) purposes, a FDC service must continue to ensure that:

- most of the children to be provided with child care will attend the service at least one day a week;
- the service will operate on all normal working days in at least 48 weeks of the year;
- the service will be available to provide care for any particular child for at least 8 continuous hours on each normal working day on which it operates; and
- where a child attends a session of care.

There are four types of financial support available to FDC services depending on their eligibility:

- Set Up Assistance – this is a one-off payment made by the Department on behalf of the Australian Government to eligible not-for-profit and for-profit services to help establish new child care services and to assist in meeting set up costs;
- Network support – is a contribution towards the operational expenses of FDC services providing support to a network of carers who provide flexible care and operate in a number of different locations;
- Regional Travel Assistance Grant (RTAG) – is designed to support approved FDC services by assisting with travel costs of coordination staff who are involved with supporting the network of carers in regional and remote areas;
- Sustainability Assistance – is a payment to support small child care services in areas of need approved by DEEWR. The funding is intended to help communities retain access to child care where the operation of a child care service is not likely to be financially viable without it. Funding is a contribution to support viability, and is based on utilised places. FDC Services that receive Sustainability Assistance are not eligible to also receive Network Support.

Funding Period/Timeframe

Funding is agreed for 12 month periods.

National Budget**South Australian Budget (if known)**

Estimated Network Support Payments to DECS in 2009/10 is \$4,890,000.

Organisations/Groups Funded

- 12 programs in South Australia are administered through the Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS);
- one for-profit operator commenced in 2009 - Home Child Care; and
- there are approximately 4,000 utilised places in South Australian schemes.

Process

- subject to meeting eligibility criteria, applications for Child Care Benefit may be made at any time.
- applications for Set Up Assistance, Network Support, Regional Travel Assistance Grant and Sustainability Assistance may only be made by services approved for Child Care Benefit.

Target Groups

The FDC Schemes provide childcare for children aged between 0 to 16 years.

Schemes must meet the relevant State licensing legislation and carers need to be fit and proper persons. Families and children as defined under FAO legislation can access the service.

Further Comments

In Home Care

Program Description

IHC is a flexible form of child care where an approved carer provides care in the child's home. IHC is targeted to families unable to access existing child care services such as families working shift or non standard hours or those located in regional or remote regions of Australia.

IHC services must comply with applicable State and Territory regulations and licensing requirements when providing care to children.

Program Objectives/Aim

Once approved for CCB purposes, an IHC service must continue to ensure that:

- (a) the service will provide in-home care only to a child:
 - (i) to whom a circumstance mentioned below applies:
 - the child, or any other child with whom the child lives, has an illness or disability
 - the individual in whose care the child is, or the individual's partner (if any), has an illness or disability that reduces the individual's, or the partner's capacity to care for the child
 - the child lives in a rural or remote area
 - work hours of the individual in whose care the child is, or the individual's partner (if any), are (or include) the hours during which no other approved child care service (other than an approved in-home care service) operates that could otherwise provide care
 - the individual in whose care the child is or the individual's partner (if any) is caring for three or more children (including the child) who have not yet commenced school, or
 - any other circumstances determined by the Secretary in relation to the child.
 - (ii) to whom only an in-home care service can provide suitable care
- (b) the service will operate on all normal working days in at least 48 weeks of the year.
- (c) the service will be available to provide care for any particular child for at least 8 continuous hours on each normal working day on which it operates, and
- (d) where a child attends a session of care, the service will not prevent the child from attending any part of that session.

There are four types of financial support available to IHC services depending on their eligibility:

- Set Up Assistance – this is a one-off payment made by the Department on behalf of the Australian Government to eligible new not-for-profit and for-profit services to help establish new child care services and to assist in meeting set up costs.
- Service Support Funding – is funding to assist IHC services that are approved to administer CCB on behalf of families. IHC services receive Service Support to assist them with the costs of recruiting, monitoring and supporting a network of carers and allocating carers to provide flexible care for children in the children's family home.

- Regional Travel Assistance Grant (RTAG) – is designed to support approved IHC services by assisting with travel costs of coordination staff who are involved with supporting the network of carers in regional and remote areas.
- Sustainability Assistance – is funding to support small, not-for-profit child care services in areas of need approved by DEEWR. The funding is intended to help communities retain access to child care where the operation of a child care service is not likely to be financially viable without it. Funding is a contribution to support viability and is based on EFT utilised places.
IHC services that receive Sustainability Assistance are not eligible to receive Service Support or Budget Based Funding.

Funding Period/Timeframe

Funding is agreed for 12 month periods.

National Budget

South Australian Budget (if known)

Estimated Network Support funding to providers in 2009/10 is \$200,000.

Organisations/Groups Funded

South Australia has two agencies approved to offer, in combination, up to 165 Child Care Benefit places:.

Process

In-Home Care services have been selected by competitive tender. No new tender rounds are envisaged in the near future.

Target Groups

In Home Care is targeted to families unable to access existing child care services such as families working shift or non standard hours or those located in regional or remote regions of Australia.

There are strict eligibility criteria and in-home care should not be offered where there is a suitable alternative form of service available. Care is largely used by shift workers requiring night and weekend care but is also accessed by parents with more than three children under school age, parents with a disability or a child with a disability, or a child in a rural or remote area.

Further Comments

In-Home Care is an expensive type of child care due to the hourly rates of carers and it is most suited to larger families which increases the amount of child care benefit available to defray the cost. Families are also able to access the Child Care Rebate. Additionally, some families are supported by Special Child Care Benefit.

There is no quality Assurance System in place although a draft has been circulated to the industry of what could be introduced.

In-Home Care is not licensed as a child care service but falls into the babysitting category under the South Australian Children's Services Act 1985. There are few regulations or requirements and the system is largely self monitored. The industry has moved to address issues through self imposed standards such as police checks and training staff in the Child Care Certificate 3 and First Aid Certificates..

Many Nanny Agencies are keen to become registered as IHC agencies because families can then access Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate of up to \$7,500 per financial year.

No new IHC services or places can become approved for the purpose of CCB at this time. When places become available information on the application process will be made public.

Occasional Care (OCC)

Program Description

OCC is a centre-based form of child care which provides flexible care for parents to meet their work-related and non-work related commitments. Families can access OCC regularly on a sessional basis, or irregularly.

OCC services do not offer full-time, all day child care except in extenuating circumstances. OCC can provide care at short notice and immediate emergency care. OCC services charge fees that reflect the amount of time a child spends in care. OCC is available to all children, however, most of the children in care will not have started school.

OCC services may operate independently as a stand-alone OCC service or can be co-located with a Long Day Care service as permitted by relevant state/territory regulations. OCC services must comply with applicable state and territory regulations when providing care to children.

There are three models of Occasional Care:

- Formula Funded Services – described in this section.

And two models described below in the **Budget Based Funded** section:

- Non-Formula Funded Services; and
- Neighbourhood Model Occasional Care.

Program Objectives/Aim

Provision of occasional sessions of child care, including some care for work related purposes.

Formula funded services are eligible to receive Operational Support provided that they:

- have approved OCC places allocated by the Department; and
- are approved for CCB purposes as an OCC service.

Operational Support funding is calculated on a rate per a maximum 40 hour week and considers the geographical nature of the service. The Department uses the Accessibility Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA Plus) to classify services for Operational Support funding. Services may operate for up to a maximum of 45 hours per week, however, Operational Support will not be paid for child care provided beyond 40 hours. Operational Support is paid only for the weeks during the year that a service operates. For example, if a service operates for 48 weeks of the year, it will be paid for 48 weeks of Operational Support.

OCC services that receive Operational Support are not eligible to also receive either Non-formula funding, Neighbourhood model funding or other Budget Based Funding.

Funding Period/Timeframe

Funding is agreed for 12 month periods.

National Budget

Not known.

South Australian Budget (if known)**Organisations/Groups Funded**

Two Formula Funded services are funded in South Australia.

Process

Under current policy, no new Occasional Care services are to be approved.

Target Groups

Users of an occasional care service will generally seek care on a casual basis, rather than under long term booking arrangements. Care will be sought for respite purposes, or for attendance by parents at medical appointments or for other sessional needs. Although some care will be for study or work related purposes, this is a smaller proportion of care than in Long Day Care centres.

Further Comments

Inclusion and Professional Support Program (IPSP)

Program Description

The Inclusion Professional Support Program (IPSP) is an integrated and consolidated approach to meeting the inclusion and professional support needs of child care services. The IPSP is comprised of three key service delivery agencies:

- Professional Support Co-ordinators (PSCs) - one per state;
- Inclusion Support Agencies (ISAs); and
- Indigenous Professional Support Units (IPSUs).

For the purpose of IPSP, South Australia is comprised of 5 geographical regions. There are two metropolitan regions and three country regions. All of the funded agencies have had new Agreements signed from 1 January 2009 until 30 June 2012.

Program Objectives/Aim

The aim of the IPSP is to promote and maintain high quality care and inclusion for all children in eligible child care services, by increasing the skill level of carers, service staff and management in line with nationally consistent priorities.

Professional Support Coordinator

The Professional Support Coordinator (PSC) develops, manages and monitors the delivery of professional support including training packages to all eligible child care services and Inclusion Support Facilitators (ISFs) within the five South Australian regions. Organisations are subcontracted to provide the support identified through annual consultation with stakeholders. PSCs also provide the Bicultural Support Program and resource library and specialist equipment.

The support services available to eligible child care services through PSC's include telephone advice and support, resource materials, flexible training options, on-line resource collections and referral to appropriate agencies for further advice and information.

Inclusion Support Agencies

Two Inclusion Support Agencies are funded in SA. One service is contracted to provide inclusion support to Child Care services across four regions, whilst the other service operates in the fifth region only. These providers coordinate the assistance provided by a network of field workers known as Inclusion Support Facilitators (ISF).

The aim of inclusion support is to build the capacity of eligible child care services to include children from the following groups:

- children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds including refugee children and Australian South Sea Islander children;
- children with on-going high support needs including children with a disability; and
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Inclusion Support Subsidy

A payment provided to Child Care Services to provide an additional worker in a child care setting to ensure a safe and inclusive environment to support children with long term ongoing

needs (as above). Each service, in conjunction with an ISF, develops a Service Support Plan to ascertain needs and link to other available community supports.

One national provider has been contracted to administer Inclusion Support Subsidy.

Funding Period/Timeframe

Professional Support Coordinator – 1 January 2009 to 30 June 2012.

Inclusion Support Agencies – 1 January 2009 to 30 June 2012.

National Budget

South Australian Budget (if known)

The total budget for IPSP for 2009/2010 is \$4,574,810.

Organisations/Groups Funded

In South Australia, there is funding for one PSC service, two Inclusion Support Agencies, and one Indigenous Professional Support Unit.

Process

All services were contracted after success in a national tender process. Current contracts will cease in 2012.

Target Groups

PSC

- Child Care Services approved for Child Care Benefit (Long day care, Outside School Hours Care – Vacation Care, Family Day Care, Occasional Care and In Home Care)
- Budget Based Child Care Services including the Indigenous and non-Indigenous specific services, noting that support to the Indigenous services may be sub-contracted to the Indigenous Professional Support Unit (IPSU”).

ISA

- Children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds;
- Children with a disability, including children with high support needs;
- Children with a refugee or humanitarian intervention background who have been subjected to torture & trauma;
- Indigenous children;
- Child Care Services approved for Child Care Benefit; and
- Budget Based Child Care Services supporting children from the 3 target groups as above.

IPSU

Please refer following section titled “**Inclusion Professional Support Program (IPSP) – Indigenous Professional Support Unit (IPSU)**”

Further Comments

Inclusion Professional Support Program (IPSP) – Indigenous Professional Support Unit (IPSU)

Program Description

Refer to the IPSP section above.

Program Objectives/Aim

Indigenous Professional Support Units (IPSUs) are one of the key components of the Inclusion Professional Support Program (IPSP). The IPSU's are part of the Australian Government's commitment to ensuring that all Indigenous children attending eligible Indigenous child care services have access to high quality care.

IPSUs provide professional development and support to eligible Indigenous child care services and their managing bodies to enable them to provide quality child care. They also facilitate their access to:

- professional development including Bicultural Support, General Resources Library and Specialist Equipment and resources as required, and funded by the PSC's;
- support from the Inclusion Support Agencies (ISAs) including inclusion support and Flexible Support Funding (FSF); and
- assistance with preparation of applications for Inclusion Support Subsidy (ISS).

In addition, IPSUs provide advice to the:

- PSCs, as subcontracted Professional Support Service Providers where appropriate;
- ISAs on culturally appropriate professional development; and
- Child Care Benefit (CCB) approved child care services.

Funding Period/Timeframe

The Funding Agreement period is to the 31st October 2012. The Activity period is 26 November 2008 to 30 June 2012.

National Budget

The total budget for IPSP for 2009-2010, which includes IPSU funding, is \$4,574,810.

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

One Indigenous Professional Support Unit is funded in South Australia.

Process

The service was contracted after a national tender process. The current contract will cease in 2012.

Target Groups

Services eligible for IPSU support include Indigenous child care services funded under the Budget Based Funding Program including:

- Flexible/innovative services;
- Indigenous crèches;
- Mobile child care services;
- Multifunctional Aboriginal Children’s Services (MACS); and
- Indigenous outside school hours care and enrichment programs.

Further Comments

Budget Based Funding (BBF)

Indigenous Services

Program Description

The Community Support Program is a sub program of the Child Care Services Support Program (CCSSP). As part of the Child Care Support Program, the Australian Government provides funding for a range of non-mainstream child care services. Indigenous services are funded through the Community Support Program - Budget Based Funding (BBF) arrangements.

Indigenous Child Care services differ substantially to mainstream child care. The funding is provided to services as a grant and is flexible to enable services to be designed to meet the specific needs of Indigenous children and their families living in any given location. Indigenous services types include:

- Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services (MACS);
- Flexible/Innovative child care services;
- Crèches;
- Mobiles;
- Outside school hours care, vacation care and enrichment programs; and
- Integrated Services (State and Commonwealth government funded child care and pre-school).

Program Objectives/Aim

The Budget Based component of the CCSSP is designed to address two main issues:

- the failure of the market to deliver mainstream child care; and
- the need for culturally specific services.

The Indigenous Budget Based Funding aims to provide culturally strong quality care to meet a broad range of Indigenous child and family needs. The key objectives include:

- service availability and sustainability – overcoming barriers to accessing child care, early childhood and pre-school services;
- holistic services – providing a broader suite of early childhood programs including health, family and community support, early learning and care;
- cultural inclusiveness;
- promotion of the early years; and
- awareness and take up of financial support.

Funding Period/Timeframe

Currently services are funded under 12 month financial year agreements with multi-year agreements being considered. The total amount of funds available for the BBF program is limited. Grants have been allocated historically from the 1980's and vary from \$10,000 per annum to over \$500,000 for large or complex services.

South Australian Indigenous child care services

In South Australia, there are:

- five Multifunctional Aboriginal Children’s Services (MACS);
- six Flexible/Innovative crèches;
- one Flexible/Innovative mobile children’s service;
- five Flexible Innovative outside school hours care, vacation care and enrichment programs; and
- two Integrated Services.

National Budget

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

Not for profit and community based organisations and schools.

Process

Target Groups

Disadvantaged Aboriginal children aged 0 to Year 12 students and their families who experience barriers in accessing mainstream child care services.

Further Comments

DEEWR reported that there is a shortage of qualified child care staff across the child care sector in South Australia and there is an even shorter supply in rural and remote locations. Attracting and retaining appropriately skilled and qualified staff in regional and remote areas is difficult. In addition there is critical shortage of qualified Aboriginal child care workers.

The comments above provide a possible insight for a program to be developed through *South Australia Works* for entry level training in the child care sector, linked to further pathways, whether this were to involve PPP training, JSA work experience and/or the Indigenous Wage Subsidy program. The lack of qualified Aboriginal child care workers is an obvious skill shortage in regional, rural and remote locations.

Non-Indigenous Budget Based Funded Services

Mobile Child Care Services

Program Description

Mobile child care services have been established to service rural and remote communities where the level of demand is insufficient to sustain mainstream services.

Mobile services use community facilities (preschools or community halls) for 1 or more days per week. Staff will prepare each site in the morning using transported equipment (portable safety fencing, art & craft materials, toys) and at day's end will pack up all material for transport to the next site. Some care is also provided on an in-home basis for up to two weeks at a time.

Program Objectives/Aim

Funding Period/Timeframe

Funding is approved on annual basis.

National Budget

South Australian Budget (if known)

\$1,518,381 for 2009/10.

Organisations/Groups Funded

There are three funded operators of mobile services in South Australia are:

- one service operates over the 600,000 square kilometres of the Far North and North West of South Australia;
- one service is based on the Limestone Coast and provides care in Robe, Kangaroo Inn and Beachport; and
- a third service operates in the Murray Mallee and offers care in Lameroo, Pinnaroo, Karoonda and Geranium.

Process

There are presently no funds available for the establishment of additional mobile services

Target Groups

Families in rural or remote communities unable to access other forms of child care.

Further Comments

Rural Care Worker (RCW)

Program Description

The Rural Care Worker (RCW) model is a joint initiative by the Australian and South Australia Governments to develop and operate viable centre based childcare services for small rural communities.

The South Australian Government is the operator of the RCW model under which services are located on State pre-school sites. Twelve sites have been established. Each site meets State licensing regulations.

Program Objectives/Aim

Provision of long day care services in small rural communities.

Funding Period/Timeframe

2002 to 30 June 2010.

National Budget

Australian Government funding was first approved in December 2002 to assist with the capital costs of upgrading pre-schools to meet child care licensing standards at the proposed sites.

Since this time the Australian Government has continued to contribute operational funding to the RCW Program each financial year. Each RCW site is also approved for Child Care Benefit.

South Australian Budget (if known)

\$391,372 for 2009/10.

Organisations/Groups Funded

The twelve operating services are located in the following towns:

- Bute;
- Boolaroo;
- Cleve;
- Cummins;
- Kingston SE;
- Lucindale;
- Mannum;
- Maitland;
- Melrose;
- Peterborough;
- Tumby Bay; and
- Yorketown.

Process

No additional funds are available under the current model for funding of new rural Care Worker sites.

Target Groups

Each RCW site offers care for up to 50 hours per week for 4 pre-school aged children and 3 school aged children. There are over 260 families and 290 children registered.

Further Comments

Crèches

Program Description

Crèches provide a flexible form of child care where other forms of child care are not available. The aim of crèches is to help support families while parents or carers move into the workforce as part of the wider welfare reforms being undertaken by the Australian Government. Crèches are centre-based and provide flexible child care for limited periods of time. They provide families with an introduction to early learning and child care opportunities. These services foster individual children's strengths, abilities and interests by providing developmentally and culturally appropriate play and learning experiences.

Crèches established before 2008 were known as 'Jobs, Education and Training (JET) Crèches'. JET Crèches were set up to assist eligible unemployed parents wanting to undertake study, work or job search activities to help them enter or re-enter the workforce. These crèches normally operate for the duration of the school, college or university year and are generally located near education campuses to support parents who are studying or training.

Program Objectives/Aim

Crèches were established by a number of organisations for parents unable to readily access mainstream child care services. This ranged from parents in difficult personal circumstances (e.g., facing domestic violence, socio-economic disadvantage) to newly arrived immigrant parents who needed to develop an understanding of child care. The sponsor organisations also provide training in pre-vocational subjects, parenting skills, cultural issues etc.

Funding Period/Timeframe

Current funding is to June 2010. Crèches have been funded in some instances since the 1990's.

National Budget

South Australian Budget (if known)

\$366,305 per annum for 12 services (does not include four indigenous services separately reported).

Organisations/Groups Funded

There are 12 mainstream JET crèches in South Australia. See also the section **Indigenous Budget Based Funding**.

Process

There are presently no funds available for the establishment of additional crèches.

Target Groups

Disadvantaged parents – primarily families on Parenting Payment.

Further Comments

Occasional Care Services (Budget Based Funded)

Program Description

OCC is a centre-based form of child care which provides flexible care for parents to meet their work-related and non-work related commitments. Families can access OCC regularly on a sessional basis, or irregularly.

OCC services do not offer full-time, all day child care except in extenuating circumstances. OCC can provide care at short notice and immediate emergency care. OCC is available to all children, however, most of the children in care will not have started school.

There are three models of Occasional Care. Two models are described in this section:

- Non-Formula Funded Services - may operate within a neighbourhood or community centre. Operators may also be offering a family support program, parenting programs, playgroups or other activities. Minimal or no fees may be charged; and
- Neighbourhood Model Occasional Care - under this model, the Australian Government provides block funding to State and Territory governments, which are then responsible for administering the program. In South Australia, Neighbourhood Model places are almost entirely provided on a sessional basis within preschools. A small number of places are allocated by the State Government for use by community centres.

The third model is described in the mainstream services section:

- Formula Funded Services.

OCC services that receive Budget Based funding are not eligible to receive the Operational Support available to Formula Funded services.

OCC services must comply with applicable state and territory regulations when providing care to children.

Program Objectives/Aim

Provision of short term and/or occasional sessions of child care, generally for non-work related purposes.

Funding Period/Timeframe

Funding is agreed for 12 month periods.

National Budget

Not known.

South Australian Budget (if known)

\$587,931 for the 2009/10 financial year.

Organisations/Groups Funded

- there are seven Non-Formula Funded Services; and
- there is one funded Neighbourhood Model Occasional Care service. It offers care at over 70 preschools.

Process

Target Groups

Users of an occasional care service will generally seek care on a casual basis. Care will be often associated with activities provided by community agencies, for study, for respite purposes, or for attendance by parents at medical appointments or for other sessional needs.

Further Comments

Child Care Policy Agenda – Budget Initiatives

The following pages provide information on budget initiatives to the Child Care Program.

- Autism Related Care;
- Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters;
- Universal Access to Preschool; and
- Early Childhood Workforce,
 - National Early Years Workforce Strategy,
 - HECS/HELP Benefit,
 - Removal of TAFE fees,
 - Additional University Places.

Autism Related Care

Program Description

The Helping Children with Autism package recognises the importance of diagnosis and early intervention treatments and services for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The package is delivered by the departments of Families, Housing Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) the lead agency; Health and Ageing; and DEEWR. DEEWR is responsible for delivering two initiatives under the package which aim to foster productive partnerships between schools and families to improve the educational outcomes of children with ASD.

The package will fund support for teachers, parents and carers of school students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) through the education component of the package.

Program Objectives/Aim

The education component of The Helping Children with Autism package includes:

- \$16.3 million for professional development for teachers and other school staff who are working with students with ASD to increase their understanding, skills and expertise in working with these students; and
- \$7 million for workshops and information sessions for parents and carers of school aged children with ASD to assist them to develop productive partnerships with their child's school teachers and school leaders.

Almost 100 workshops will be held around the country for parents and carers of students with ASD and teachers and school staff. These workshops aim to build strong and effective partnerships between parents and carers of children with ASD and their schools so that each student's school years are as productive and supportive as possible. This program is the start of providing better support and early intervention programs for children with ASD.

- Six Autism-Specific Early Learning and Care Centres (ASELCC) are being established through a joint initiative between DEEWR and FaHCSIA. Funding of \$9.7 million over four years will be provided to establish the first three centres.

The ASELCCs will provide early learning programs and specific support for children with ASD in a long day care setting. The centres will provide child care for children aged zero to six with ASD and aim to have a positive impact on their long term life outcomes. They will also provide parents with support in the care of their children and give them the opportunity to participate more fully in the community. Through their affiliations with universities or hospitals, the centres will have a research and workforce training component which will help achieve a better understanding of ASD and increase workforce capacity.

Anglicare SA Inc, in partnership with the Autism Association of South Australia and Flinders University, has refurbished Anglicare's existing child care centre at Daphne Street, Prospect, to accommodate a 20 Long Day Care place ASELCC. This centre was officially opened on 31 August 2009.

Funding Period/Timeframe

National Budget

\$190 million.

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

The Australian Autism Education and Training Consortium (AAETC) will deliver the nationwide package to teachers, school staff, parents and carers.

The delivery model is multi layered to provide a national program that is tailored to local needs and contexts.

- a National Education & Training Team will develop national sets of materials for both components. These materials will complement initiatives and services already available in each state and territory that aim to support schools and families;
- Regional Education & Training Teams will deliver the professional development in locations across Australia, in metropolitan, regional and rural areas;
- at the local level, all participants will have access to support and mentoring; and
- ‘Virtual’ networking and support will also be available with online learning and resources to complement the face-to-face professional development or workshops/information.

Process

Services have been, or will be, approved through selective tender.

Target Groups

Teachers and school support staff working with students with ASD and parents and carers of school aged children with ASD.

Further Comments

Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY)

Program Description

The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters is a two year home-based parenting and early childhood enrichment program targeting preschool aged children and their families. The program empowers parents to be their children's first teacher and fosters parent involvement in school and community life, to maximise the chances of a successful early school experience. For some parents, it also offers a supported pathway to employment and local community leadership.

Program Objectives/Aim

Funding Period/Timeframe

National Budget

The Australian Government has committed \$32.5 million over five years (2008-2012) to roll-out the program nationally to 50 communities, supporting up to 3,000 families.

South Australian Budget (if known)

Organisations/Groups Funded

The program is already operating in 22 communities (six in Tasmania and Victoria, three in New South Wales, two in Queensland and Western Australia, and one each in South Australia (Elizabeth Grove), the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory) and will commence in an additional 14 locations in 2010 and 2011.

Process

The Australian Government, with the Brotherhood of St Laurence, is seeking Expressions of Interest from organisations interested in delivering the program in 2010. For South Australia, interest is sought for a service in the Mansfield Park area and for Whyalla Stuart.

Target Groups

Further Comments

Universal Access to Preschool

Program Description

On 29 November 2008, the Council of Australian Governments endorsed a new National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education. Under the Agreement, the Commonwealth and State and Territory governments have committed to ensuring that all children will have access to a quality early childhood education program by 2013, delivered by a four-year university-trained early childhood teacher, for 15 hours a week, 40 weeks a year, in the year before formal schooling.

Program Objectives/Aim

The National Partnership will ensure all Australian children have the best possible start in life, with universal access to quality education in the year before school.

By 2013 every Australian child will have access to a preschool program delivered:

- in the 12 months prior to full-time schooling;
- by a four-year university-qualified early childhood teacher;
- for 15 hours a week, 40 weeks a year;
- across a diversity of settings;
- in a form that meets the needs of parents; and
- at a cost that does not present a barrier to participation.

There is a specific focus on ensuring preschool education is available to disadvantaged children, especially Indigenous children, including those who live in remote communities.

Funding Period/Timeframe

National Budget

The Commonwealth's commitment of \$970 million over five years includes \$955 million to states and territories to support their implementation of the Universal Access initiative.

COAG also confirmed that there would be ongoing funding to the states and territories once universal access is achieved. The Australian Government will provide \$450 million a year through a national agreement, after 2012/13.

South Australian Budget (if known)

\$65.40 million from 2008 to 2013.

Organisations/Groups Funded

Process

In South Australia, the primary tasks of the National Partnership will include increasing preschool hours of operation from 11 hours per week to 15 hours per week; and to increase the attendance of indigenous children at preschools. Measures will also be undertaken to ensure the availability of suitably qualified staff.

Target Groups

Further Comments

Childcare Workforce Support

Program Description

The Australian Government's commitment to early childhood is backed by a plan to improve the quality of education offered to our youngest Australians.

A well-trained workforce is essential in fostering the best outcomes for children. Research has shown that better educated early childhood workers with specialised training lead to higher quality education and care and that preschool programs employing four year trained teachers have been shown to be highly effective.

An increasing number of children are accessing early childhood education and care services each year, increasing the demand for early childhood professionals. Without adequate intervention, a shortfall of at least 7,000 early childhood education and care workers by 2013 is estimated.

The Australian Government has committed to a package of measures aimed at increasing the supply and quality of the early childhood workforce. The package includes:

- the removal of regulated course fees for Diploma and Advanced Diploma of Children's Services course delivered by TAFEs or other government training providers. Support will be provided to 8,000 current and prospective child care workers each year to gain nationally recognised qualifications by removing TAFE fees for eligible child care diplomas from 2009 to 2012;
- creating additional university places in early childhood education degrees each year, from 2009, rising to 1,500 commencing students by 2011; and
- paying half the HECS-HELP debts of approximately 10,000 early childhood educators who work in defined rural and regional areas, Indigenous communities and areas of socio-economic disadvantage. This will provide a benefit of up to \$1,600 over a maximum of five years to individuals who participate.

Program Objectives/Aim

The Strategy will address three key areas relevant to early childhood education and child care:

- attracting, recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce;
- equipping our workforce with the right skills and knowledge; and
- ensuring a focus on regional, remote and Indigenous issues.

On 29 November 2008 it was agreed by COAG that the initiative would be delivered through a National Partnership Agreement with States and Territories.

Funding Period/Timeframe

National Budget

\$126.6 million split into three components as follows:

- \$60.3 million for removal of TAFE fees for child care diplomas and advanced diplomas from 2009;
- \$53.9 million to create additional university places; and

- \$12.4 million to reduce around half the HECS-HELP debts for early childhood teachers who work in regional and high disadvantage areas.

South Australian Budget (if known)**Organisations/Groups Funded****Process****Further Comments**