
Responses to questions on notice

Australia Mines and Metals Association

Framework and operation of subclass 457 visas, Enterprise Migration Agreements and Regional Migration Agreements

Question 1 - Senator Cash – p. 42 of Hansard:

Senator CASH:...I follow up in relation to the figure that you mentioned for 2011-12. I think it was \$1.2 billion that you said your industry spends on training. How do you get to the figure of \$1.2 billion?

Mr Achterstraat: There was research conducted by the independent body, the National Centre for Vocational Education Research. They arrived at that figure through their own analysis. It was a review of the minerals industry per se. Some other findings from that research, to put that number in context, as my colleague Mr Barklamb has mentioned, there are 12,000 apprentices currently in the pipeline. The report also found that some 80 per cent of all employers in the minerals industry or the mining industry offer some form of structured training. Also, in terms of local engagement, the report found that 13 per cent of all apprentices in the mining industry were of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. I do commend that report to you.

Senator CASH: Are you able to provide that report to the Senate committee?

Mr Achterstraat: Absolutely. We look forward to providing that to you.

Question 2 - Senator Furner – pp 46-47 of Hansard:

Senator FURNER: Just on your evidence today about \$1.2 billion on training. Is that purely on apprenticeships in the mining sector?

Mr Achterstraat: No. I believe it is a combination of apprentice training structured programs, in-house training and the like. It is an aggregate figure.

Senator FURNER: Can you break that down or, if that is not possible, are you able to provide on notice what the percentage would be of apprenticeships, adult training and so on?

Mr Achterstraat: It would be with great pleasure we provide that report to you for your full examination.

The report I refer to in the below transcript to Senators Cash and Furner, is the NCVER's 'Training and education activity in the minerals sector' report.

A hard copy was made available to the Senate committee on the day of the public hearing. It is a publically available document that can be accessed electronically here:

http://www.minerals.org.au/file_upload/files/reports/Final_Report_Minerals_Council_2013.pdf

In relation to Senator Furner's question on the breakdown of training expenditure figure of \$1.2 billion, I can provide the following response in addition:

The aggregate figure of \$1.2 billion captures training activity in the areas of apprentices and traineeships, nationally recognised training and study (including skill sets), structured training (including safety), and other skill development activities.

Approximately \$570 million of the total training expenditure was related to salary expenditure for trainers, for apprentices and trainees, and for staff attending training.

The remaining expenditure resulted from the payment of course fees (\$440 million), and infrastructure and other training costs (\$130 million).