

Questions on notice taken during hearing

Leisa Harrison – Essential Skills Training & Recruitment

Dr JOHN KAYE: *You prefer the less competitive model?*

Ms HARRISON: *We have no problem with the competition.*

Dr JOHN KAYE: *You say that, but the APL structure was an approved provider that got funding from the Government. If you have got the students, you got the funding. You were not competing against each other?*

Ms HARRISON: *You are still competing for the customers, though.*

Dr JOHN KAYE: *Yes, but you were not competing for the entitlements, which is what happened under Smart and Skilled, and you did not do particularly well.*

Ms HARRISON: *Well that was—you can—I do not know how to explain that.*

Dr JOHN KAYE: *I will come back to you then.*

CHAIR: *You can take that on notice. It is a difficult question that probably needs some thought.*

Dr JOHN KAYE: *Yes, I am happy for you to take that on notice.*

Answer:

On the APL you are given a set allocation of a number of traineeship commencements for each calendar year that could be used throughout NSW. Smart and skilled you are limited it to regions and funding amounts per region. Under both schemes you don't get the funding unless you have the customers. As for competing for the entitlements that is the issue with Smart and Skilled, the application process was flawed and did not take into account our past track record, did not for evidence our success with job seekers etc. When we originally applied for the APL these kinds of questions were asked of the RTO. It is still not clear how STS made the decision on how the funds were allocated and on what merit. Why give us an allocation in the Riverina if we have never trained there before. Why not give us funding in the region where we have high completion and employment rates. Smart and Skilled was pitched to RTO's at information sessions before the application process as a means of improving student choice and making access to funding based on quality not price. Then to only award funding to 1 private RTO and TAFE in our region for one of our main qualifications how does that give students choice?

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: *As organisations are you required to report employment outcomes to anybody?*

Ms HARRISON: *Not employment but completion rates we are.*

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: *We really have no information about our training system?*

Ms HARRISON: *And we were never asked either.*

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: *Do you have comprehensive figures on that yourselves?*

Mr PASSMORE: *Absolutely.*

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: *Would you mind providing some of that information to our Committee? It would be good to have a template on that.*

Mr PASSMORE: *Do you mean all of us?*

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: *Yes, it would be very valuable.*

Answer:

The majority of our students are employment based but we have and will continue to run job seeker programs bringing new workers into the industry, our current employment rates for Job seekers is approximately 96%. Those who did not gain employment withdrew for personal reasons or decided that community services was not for them.