

Question on Notice
No. 506
Asked Wednesday 20 April 2005

MRS ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (**Mr Barton**):

QUESTION:

Will he advise the outcomes of the Experience Pays strategy which was implemented to assist mature aged job seekers to return to work?

ANSWER:

The Experience Pays Participation Strategy encompasses five initiatives that provide a coordinated response to the identified needs of mature-aged job seekers.

The aim is to achieve a minimum 30% state-wide participation target for mature-aged people under the *Breaking the Unemployment Cycle's* community employment programs, plus targeted traineeships under the First Start program.

Since its introduction in July last year, 1,668 mature age jobseekers have been assisted.

Initiative 1: targeted assistance for mature aged jobseekers through Community Jobs Plan – Employment Assistance Projects.

- \$1.1M has been provided for 17 projects to assist approximately 853 mature-aged long term unemployed people.

Initiative 2: The Mature Aged Marketing Campaign is aimed at increasing local employer and community awareness of mature aged employment issues and to assist mature aged jobseekers into sustainable employment.

- \$70,000 has been committed for this purpose.

Initiative 3: The First Start program places disadvantaged job seekers into full-time traineeships.

- \$940,000 has been provided for 79 employment opportunities for mature aged 45 years and over.

Initiative 4: Industry Training Projects provides access to industry relevant training and workforce experience, and links them to job opportunities in industries that value mature workers.

- 328 mature-aged jobseekers have received assistance through these projects.

Initiative 5: Rural and Remote Strategy provides job search training, career advice, and training in information technology. Learning Network Queensland delivers this strategy in rural and remote areas outside of South East Queensland.

- \$500,000 has been provided to this organisation with a commitment for similar funding in 2005/06 and 2006/07.