

Question on Notice
No. 677
Asked Tuesday, 9 May 2006

MR LAWLOR asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations and Minister for Sport (**Mr Barton**):

QUESTION:

With reference to a 12 month project, funded jointly by the department and the Federal Department of Employment and Workplace Relations in conjunction with the Australian Industry Group, is currently underway to address the skills shortages in the manufacturing and engineering industry in south east Queensland and as the project specifically targets mature aged, long-term unemployed people as well as long-term unemployed Sudanese migrants—

How many participants have undertaken a pre-employment course focusing on the provision of entry level skills and how many graduates have been successful in obtaining employment?

ANSWER:

The Mature Age/Migrant Employment Program has specifically targeted mature aged long term unemployed people whose current skills set are not in demand in the workplace.

It also aimed to assist a small number of migrants, in particular, local mature aged, long term unemployed Sudanese members in Toowoomba with overseas qualifications, who have not been able to reach the Australian standard for a tradesperson in the manufacturing and engineering industry.

Ninety people from these at risk target groups undertook a pre-employment course focusing on industry skills in Engineering. Of these graduates 56 have obtained employment and 15 have gone on to further training.

All participants are being provided with post placement support to help them in securing ongoing employment.

I am pleased to inform the Member that due to the success and performance of this project a second project has recently been funded which will again offer participants the opportunity to achieve a range of skills at Certificate level I in Engineering.