



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QTON No. 1

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS  
MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KICKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), CHRIS STEEL MLA,  
ANDREW WALL MLA

Inquiry into referred 2016–17 Annual and Financial Reports  
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE  
17 November 2017



**Asked by MR WALL MLA:**

In relation to: Field Officer Program

**MR WALL:** So when you say respond to various issues what sort of issues are the field officers having raised with them and then what are they capable of doing to address those issues?

**Mr Miller:** The vast majority of issues are around, I would say, tend to be misunderstandings around responsibilities and entitlements under the training contract. Either they believed they were entitled to something that they were not or they are confused about aspects of the training arrangement. They might be raising concerns about whether or not they have been given appropriate release time from their employer to attend off the job training.

Then the point of that is to then have a conversation with the employer to make sure they are also aware of exactly what their responsibilities are under a training contract so there are not any issues with the students being released for that training. So the vast majority of issues I would say at that kind of level where the initial conversation including the employer and the apprentice really helps resolve a lot of those things.

There are also a range of more serious issues. So if there are concerns that relate to occupational health and safety or workplace health and safety we would immediately refer those to Work Safety. We have got a very strong working relationship with Greg Jones, the work safe team, over there so that we can respond and refer different queries for follow up and assistance. They are obviously the work health and safety experts.

So we can identify the issue and then refer it on to the relevant area. Similarly if there was an issue that needed to be referred to the Fair Work Ombudsman we could help support them through referral of those issues there as well.

**MR WALL:** Of the 567 apprentices for the reporting period that were visited how many of them were school-based apprentices?

**Mr Miller:** I would have to take that one no notice I am afraid.

**MR WALL:** If you can take that on notice and perhaps also a breakdown of the 457 employers, just a breakdown of those perhaps by sector just to make it a bit easier.



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### MINISTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RESEARCH:

The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Of the 567 field officer visits to Australian Apprentices, 313 were to Australian School-based Apprentices.

A breakdown of the 457 employer visits by sector, with the sector determined by the qualification being undertaken by Australian Apprentice, is below:

Sector	Total	%
Construction (including plumbing, carpentry, civil construction, electrical, furnishing, glazing)	119	28.1%
Community services (including childcare, disability, education support, individual support)	65	15.3%
Tourism, Travel and Hospitality	51	12.0%
Retail	44	10.4%
Business and Financial Services	35	8.3%
Hair and Beauty	32	7.5%
Automotive Industry	26	6.1%
Information Communications and Telecommunications	13	3.1%
Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management	12	2.8%
Sport, Fitness and Recreation	8	1.9%
Property Services (real estate)	7	1.7%
Engineering and Manufacturing	5	1.2%
Meat Industry	3	0.7%
Animal Care and Management	2	0.5%
Floristry	1	0.2%
Government	1	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>424</b>	

*Note: the 457 employer visits reported included consultation visits regarding the 2017 ACT Skills Needs List (27 visits) and the Training Product Policy (6 visits). Australian Apprentice qualification was not captured as part of these consultations which is why they are not included in the table above.*

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs

Signature:

Date: 27/11/17

By the Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research, Meegan Fitzharris MLA