

**House of Assembly
1 December 2009**

APPRENTICESHIP RETENTION SCHEME

536Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (15 September 2009). With reference to Budget paper 4, Volume 1, page 5.14 of the 2008-09 Budget regarding the Apprenticeship Retention Scheme—

- (a) what sort of industries or businesses are being included in this scheme;
- (b) how many apprentices are expected to be retained under this program;
- (c) how long is the program expected to run; and
- (d) how much has been allocated budget to this program?

The Hon. P. CAICA (Colton—Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Forests, Minister for Regional Development): I am advised:

The Drought Apprenticeship Retention Program aims to assist farming communities, in particular primary producers and small businesses, to retain apprentices and trainees in drought affected areas.

The program was allocated \$1.5 million in 2007-08. These funds were fully committed and assisted 458 employers to retain 983 apprentices and trainees in employment.

The program was allocated \$1.1 million in 2008-09. These funds were fully committed and assisted 243 employers to retain 631 apprentices and trainees across the state.

A further \$1.1 million was allocated in 2009-10. To date, 267 employers have received the first round of payments to support the retention of 633 apprentices and trainees. Extension of this program beyond the 2009-10 period will be assessed in line with all government drought measures.