During the third quarter of 2010 there were a total of 19,691 employment screening requests.

This is just over a 5% decrease in the volume of requests compared with the third quarter of 2009 when there were 20,812 screenings.

This may be attributable to minor variations in employment cycles within the education and training sector.

Year to date:

To the end of September 2010, there have been a total of 57,331 employment screening checks. This is a 3% increase compared with 2009 when there were 56,059 screenings.

The breakdown of the number of screenings by employer type shows that the Department has decreased screening volumes in 2010, while employment in the education and training sector has increased slightly.

Since 1 January 2010, the Department of Education and Training has screened 29,567 people for employment (this is just over a 1% decrease compared with the same period in 2009).

Since 1 January 2010, external employers in the education and training sector screened 27,764 people for employment (this is a 6% increase compared with the same period for 2009). This is consistent with expectations given the employment stimulus provided by the Building the Education Revolution (BER) program.

Success of the program:

Over the past three years, over 100 prohibited persons have been identified applying for work in child-related environments as a result of the mandatory requirement to screen applicants. A prohibited person is a person who has been convicted of the following (whether in NSW or elsewhere):

- Serious sex offence;
- Child related personal violence offence;
- Murder of a child;
- Indecency offences; punishable by imprisonment of 12 months or more;
- Kidnapping;
- Offences connected with child prostitution;
- Offences connected with child prostitution;
- Possession, distribution or publication of child pornography; or
- Attempt, conspiracy or incitement to commit the above offences.

Employment screening has raised awareness within the education and training sector of the compliance requirements of the Working with Children Check, and has helped promote the safety and well-being of children in NSW.