

Submission No: 9

Rec'd 11/6/09

**Joint Committee of Public Accounts & Audit
18 March 2009**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome/Agency Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

DEEWR Question No. 1

Question

Reconciliation of Claims and Payments

The audit found that DEN funding models were complex and proposed in Recommendation No. 2 that this be addressed. In response, DEEWR advised it would develop a package of information to assist DEN providers in more easily reconciling their payments and claims. Could you please update the Committee on progress on this issue?

Answer

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations has provided the following response:

DEEWR is currently developing a package of information that will assist DEN providers to use the available technology to manage and reconcile claims for the participants they service. The package will contain information on the resources available within the system and associated reporting functions to assist them with this task. Peak representative bodies within the disability employment sector will be given the opportunity to provide input on the draft package prior to its release to DEN providers. The package will be circulated to peak bodies by 30 June 2009.

DEEWR Question No. 2

Question

Complexity of the DEN Funding Model

Could you please explain to the Committee why the funding scheme as depicted in Figure 3.3 on page 71 of the Audit Report is so complex?

Answer

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations has provided the following response:

The current Case Based Funding model is a fee for service arrangement where fees are linked to job seeker support needs and the achievement of employment outcomes.

The complexity in the model arises from the transition from the Block Grant Funding model which operated until June 2005 and which was considered deficient in three areas:

- levels of funding bore no relationship to the level of support provided to clients
- the model did not create incentives for, or reward, good performance, and
- there was a lack of transparent procedures to ensure that service providers were accountable for their funding.

Simplification of the funding model is being addressed in the Disability Employment Services Review.

DEEWR Question No. 3

Question

CSTDA Annual Public Reports

The ANAO found that no progress had been made on reporting in the CSTDA Annual Public Reports since the last audit in 2005. Why is this the case, and what undertakings can you provide to the Committee to assure it that reporting will meet the requirements of Schedule A3 of the CSTDA?

Answer

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations has provided the following response:

The CSTDA Annual Public Reports are the responsibility of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). Therefore, DEEWR is not able to respond to the question.