

Our ref: 2010-900285

30 May 2011

Committee Secretary  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Employment  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
AUSTRALIA

Dear Committee Secretary

The Commonwealth Ombudsman made a submission to the House Standing Committee on Education and Employment's Inquiry into the Social Security Legislation Amendment (Job Seekers Compliance Bill) 2011.<sup>1</sup> I am writing to clarify a paragraph in that submission.

Page 4 of the submission states:

*Presently, if a continuing CDEP participant fails to engage with their employment service provider, and is exited from that employment service provider, their continuing CDEP participant status can be terminated. If the person subsequently returns to CDEP, often carrying out the same duties, they are placed on the new CDEP model under which they receive social support payments through Centrelink instead of wages and may be subject to IM. The difference in treatment between these two groups has been the subject of understandable confusion.*

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) subsequently advised that it is now possible for continuing CDEP participants to return to the continuing CDEP program, even after an absence from that program, provided they continue to meet eligibility requirements.

Please draw this letter to the Committee's attention. I also request that the Committee consider publishing this letter in connection with our submission.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss this letter.

Yours sincerely

George Masri  
Senior Assistant Ombudsman

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<sup>1</sup> Submission number 7