

Victorian 'SkillsPay' Program Pilot for Mature Aged Jobseekers

Please find below some comments to the final evaluation of the SkillsPAY Program.

We targeted 560 placements during the 6 months pilot from April to October 1999.

We achieved 50 successful placements.

The program was growing in acceptance.

The pilot only targeted 45+ jobseekers who were eligible for our CBE Employment Placement program ie those who were less than 12 months UE and not in receipt of 'Flex 2 or Flex 3' assistance from Job Network. (Job Network already receives significant Commonwealth funding to develop the employability of its F1 and F2 clients). They must have a definite job offer. Most employers want the best job ready person available to start immediately and were reluctant to wait for a trained older worker on the hope that they will then be appropriately skilled.

It is a marketing challenge to, on the one hand, sell 45+ workers as 'reliable, experienced, etc' and at the same time say they might need training.

The 50 placements represented a mixture of jobs and situations. The courses involved were usually 5 days or less. Many were courses to enhance the computer literacy of the job seeker. Some tended to be in positions requiring licences or certificated such as taxi, bus, heavy vehicle operation; security guards; Gaming Venue; First Aid Certificate; etc.

Regards,
Graeme L