

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 3 - Employment

DEEWR Question No. CA0013_14

Senator Payne asked on 7 June 2013, Hansard page 62

Question

RJCP - Financial viability of applicants

Senator PAYNE: So if I was to ask you to provide the committee with the information that enabled you to assess each applicant's financial and organisational capacity to deliver on the contract, would you be able to do that—even with identifiers removed to protect any aspects of commercial in confidence?

Ms Milliken: I would need to take that on notice.

Senator PAYNE: Do you think that you would be able to do that?

Ms Taylor: It is difficult to say, Senator.

Senator PAYNE: That bothers me somewhat.

Ms Taylor: I am just wondering whether we can de-identify. Can you give me a bit of an example of what you are thinking of here?

Senator PAYNE: I want to know that you know that, of all of the appointments that have been made, every single one of them has a business model and has proved their financial viability to you to run these programs.

Ms Milliken: In many circumstances this is not the only business that that organisation will be operating.

Senator PAYNE: What is your point? I am not sure I understand.

Ms Milliken: It is a matter for the corporation to determine the level of—

Senator PAYNE: I do not actually agree with that. This is Commonwealth money. It is a matter for the department to be assured, in my view.

Ms Taylor: The other thing is the commercial-in-confidence nature of the information, which is why I will take on notice to see what we can provide. I think that is the best thing to do.

Answer

The information gathered by DEEWR for the purposes of completing Financial Viability checks for the Remote Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP) 2013–2018 included:

- entity details including the type, legal name, ABN and contact information
- trust Information (if applicable)
- information on any current or previous adverse business events
- financial statements for the previous three financial years
- personal identifying information for persons who have a direct or indirect interest in the organisation or business with the potential to have some control over the management or operation of the organisation.

For reference as to the information provided by applicants, a full copy of the RJCP Financial and Credentials Information Form can be found at Appendix G of the *Call for Expressions of Interest for the conduct of the Remote Jobs and Communities Program 2013–2018*. A copy is available at <http://deewr.gov.au/expressions-interest-remote-jobs-and-communities-program>.

The financial viability assessment is conducted to determine whether the Applicant has any financial or credential issues that may impact on the RJCP Activity requirements, and whether there are any issues that may affect the Applicant's ability to provide Activities under the Funding Agreement(s). This is a standard process used to minimise risk to the Commonwealth. It is not used to measure the profitability of an organisation or its potential for success in the conduct of Activities.