

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** 7

**Question No:** 436

**Topic:** Community Development Employment Projects

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Payne** asked:

As part of the transition to the RJCP, current participants in the CDEP will continue to receive CDEP wages up to 30 June 2017, but those who are job-ready will be encouraged to move off CDEP wages into employment. Can the department provide more detail about how these people will be "encouraged" into work?

**Answer:**

The CDEP program plays an important role in preparing people for public or private sector employment through training, mentoring and community development but the program is not intended to be an end in itself.

From 1 July 2013, CDEP participants living in 60 Remote Regions across Australia transitioned into the Remote Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP). The RJCP builds on the strengths of existing employment and participation and community programs, including CDEP, to provide a more flexible and responsive service to better meet the needs of people living in remote Australia.

The RJCP's 'jobs first' focus has a single service provider with a permanent presence in each remote region delivering personalised assistance to job seekers to ensure they are getting better support to get the skills needed to get and keep a job. It will also ensure people who are not working are participating to their capacity in activities that contribute to developing strong and sustainable communities.

As part of the transition from CDEP to RJCP, participants will be required to meet with the RJCP provider to review Individual Participation Plans. This process will provide the RJCP provider and the participant with an opportunity to review the participant's work goals and aspirations, educational achievements, work history, skills profile and training needs to maximise opportunities for off CDEP Wage employment.

Compliance and re-engagement arrangements have also been revised under RJCP. Where a CDEP participant has demonstrated that they are work ready, for example by undertaking an employment placement for more than 13 continuous weeks, they will not be able to return to CDEP.