

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM0750_15

Senator Collins provided in writing.

Question

JSA contract advisory committee

The former Minister, Kate Ellis, set up an Advisory Committee for the new contract process, can you please advise: - what is the purpose of this Advisory Committee? - Who is on the Advisory Committee - When was the last time the Advisory Committee met? - How many times has the Advisory Committee met since the current Government came to office? - Which of these meetings was the Minister present at? - Has the Minister met with members of the Advisory Committee individually?

Answer

The former Minister for Employment Participation, the Hon Kate Ellis MP, established the 2015 Reference Group to provide assistance to the then Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations on the future of the employment services model after the current contracts for Job Services Australia and Disability Management Services component of Disability Employment Services were due to cease on 30 June 2015.

2015 Reference Group members were:

- Mr Ray Blessing – CEO Taskforce Community Agency
- Mr Nick Burt – CEO, Facility Management Association of Australia
- Ms Rhiannon Carter - Australian Council of Trade Unions
- Ms Suzanne Colbert AM - CEO, Australian Network on Disability
- Mr Warren Fridell - Australian Services Union
- Ms Sandra Gray - NSW TAFE
- Mr Roger Kennedy - Strategic Advisor, Mission Australia
- Ms Jenny Lambert - Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Ms Sue Regan - HC Coombs Policy Forum, ANU
- Ms Sally Sinclair - CEO, National Employment Services Association
- Ms Melanie Stutsel - Director, Health, Safety, Environment and Community Policy, Minerals Council of Australia
- Ms Gail Sulicich Executive Officer - Northern Futures
- Ms Carla Wilshire – CEO, Migration Council of Australia
- Ms Lance Wilson - Jobs Australia
- Ms Samantha Wilson - Local Employment Coordinator Ipswich / Logan Area

The 2015 Reference Group met on 7 November 2012 and 29 November 2012. The Reference Group has not met since 2012, including under the former government.

As the 2015 Reference Group was established by the former Minister under the previous Government, and had not met for 12 months, it has not been reconvened since the current Government came to office.

As the Minister for Employment indicated at the 27 February 2014 hearings of the Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee the Minister for Employment and the Assistance Minister for Employment have had meetings with stakeholders that have included discussion of post-June employment service arrangements. These stakeholders include members of the 2015 Reference Group.