

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM0756_15

Senator Collins provided in writing.

Question

Seasonal work for unemployed people

Minister Abetz is on the record saying that people should not be supported by the Government nor subsidized by their fellow Australian taxpayers if they will not work, and has pointed to fruit picking and dairy farming as industries where jobs are readily available. He has also said that 'bread delivery' is an option for those out of work. Where does the Department stand on the viability of Minister Abetz's comments given that the fruit picking industry is one where work is only available on a seasonal basis – does the Department think this sort of work is suitable for the unemployed given that such work is likely to be only available for 6-8 weeks of the year? Has the Department undertaken analysis on the viability of Minister Abetz suggestion regarding seasonal work? Has the Department provided advice to the Minister in relation to his suggestion regarding seasonal work?

Answer

The Government considers that any job that a job seeker is capable of undertaking, including seasonal work, is better than no job, as it will provide the job seeker with skills and experience that they can use when applying for future jobs.

As previously identified by the Department of Employment, one of the biggest inhibitors to an unemployed person getting a job is 'no or limited employment history'.

Details of briefings provided to the Minister are not made publicly available in order to maintain the confidentiality and effectiveness of the advice.