

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015

#### Outcome 1 - Employment

#### Department of Employment Question No. EM0762\_15

Senator Collins provided in writing.

#### Work for the Dole - 18 sites

#### Question

On 28 May 2014 the Government announced the areas in which the 18 Work for the Dole sites would be established as part of the phasing in of the Government's expanded Work for the Dole scheme:

- A. How were these 18 sites chosen?
- B. How are these 18 sites going to be phased in?
- C. Will a pre-determined timetable be observed?
- D. If so, can you please provide a copy of this timetable?
- E. Are the 18 sites the same as the 21 priority areas serviced by the Local Employment Coordinators?
- F. If so, why has three out of the 21 LEC areas not been included as sites in the roll out of Work for the Dole?
- G. What will happen in the North-West of Tasmania where the area's LEC has been cut by the Government?
- H. How will Work for the Dole be implemented in areas where LECs have been cut?
- I. Has the Government used Regional Development Australia boundaries or Employment Service Area boundaries?
- J. If not, what boundaries have been used for these 18 Work for the Dole sites?
- K. Ballarat-Bendigo were areas serviced by a LEC, can you confirm whether these areas have been included within one of the 18 Work for the Dole sites?
- L. If yes, which of the 18 sites will these areas be covered by?
- M. If no, why hasn't it been included in the 18 sites for the roll out of the Work for the Dole?
- N. Port Augusta, Whyalla, Port Pirie are areas serviced by a LEC, can you confirm whether these areas have been included within one of the 18 Work for the Dole sites?
- O. If yes, which of the 18 sites will these areas be covered by?
- P. If no, why hasn't it been included in the 18 sites for the roll out of the Work for the Dole?
- Q. I note that the 6 LEC sites in Queensland have been reduced to 5 Work for the Dole sites can you advise whether all of the LEC sites in Queensland will be covered by the 5 Work for the Dole sites?
- R. If no, why hasn't all 6 LEC sites been included in the 18 sites for the roll out of the Work for the Dole?
- S. Which areas in Queensland serviced by a LEC will miss out a Work for the Dole site?
- T. Can you please tell us the exact locations, for each of these 18 Work for the Dole sites within each area?

U. If you cannot be that specific, can you please tell us the towns/cities in which they will be established?

**Answer**

A:

The 18 selected areas under the Work for the Dole programme for 2014-15 were selected on the basis that they are a mix of metropolitan and non-metropolitan locations with varying labour markets and typically have higher than average rates of youth unemployment.

B, C and D:

The Work for the Dole programme for 2014-15 will commence from 1 July 2014 in all 18 selected areas in preparation for the introduction of a national programme from 1 July 2015.

E, F, I and J:

While the 18 selected areas broadly align with some of the former priority employment areas, they are not the same, given that the Work for the Dole programme for 2014-15 is a different programme to the priority employment area initiative. The selected areas are comprised of Employment Service Areas.

G and H:

The priority employment area initiative, including Local Employment Coordinators, has not been cut. The programme was only funded by the former government until 30 June 2014 and it will cease at that time. The West and North West and Launceston employment services areas have been selected as an area for the Work for the Dole programme in 2014-15.

Job Services Australia providers in the selected areas will place eligible job seekers in Work for the Dole places for around 15 hours a week for six months. Work for the Dole Coordinators will be contracted in each selected area to help source Work for the Dole places. An open tender for the contracting of Work for the Dole Coordinators in the 18 areas is underway.

K, L, M, N, O and P:

Not all the former priority employment areas in Ballarat-Bendigo, Port Augusta – Whyalla - Port Pirie and Queensland are covered by one of the 18 selected areas for 2014-15, but they will be part of the national programme which will commence from 1 July 2015.

Q, R and S:

The Southern Wide Bay Burnett priority employment area is not covered by the phasing in of Work for the Dole in Selected Areas programme in 2014-15 but will be covered by the national programme which will commence from 1 July 2015.

The majority of the former priority employment areas in Queensland will be covered by the national programme of Work for the Dole which will commence from 1 July 2015. The remainder will be serviced by arrangements under the Remote Jobs and Community Programme.

T and U:

Maps of the 18 selected areas can be found on the department's website at <http://docs.employment.gov.au/node/34041>.