

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015

#### Outcome 1 - Employment

#### Department of Employment Question No. EM0862\_15

#### Senator Cameron asked on 3 June 2014 on proof Hansard page 59

#### Question

#### Work for the dole checks and balances

Senator CAMERON: I have given the secretary and Ms Taylor time to think it through. Is there any checklist that the hosts for Work for the Dole participants have to go through? If not, why not? If there is, can you table it? Ms Taylor: Senator, in the guidelines for JSA providers, we set out the aims of the work experience activities, things that must be achieved, experience in an existing workplace and opportunity to be part of a team and/or be mentored, community benefit, opportunity to develop the job seeker's skills and education and a pathway. We go on in this by saying: By undertaking group based activities, job seekers will develop their ability to work as a team, take directions from a supervisor, work independently, communicate effectively and improve their motivation and dependability. This is from the provider guidelines. But in the deed, it goes into definitions et cetera. The secretary and I have recently seen the sorts of experiences that they have either with organisations or in projects. What the participants say they have learned and their experiences in these projects goes, I would say, to all of these aspects. Senator CAMERON: So the analysis is listening to the participants speak about their experience? Is that what you are putting to me? Ms Taylor: No. Not solely. I was giving that as an example. Senator CAMERON: Can you take on notice, because I am not getting anywhere in a hurry here, what other checks and balances are in there so that Work for the Dole participants meet an improved capacity to engage in full-time and part-time employment in the workforce? Ms Taylor: Senator, I am happy to table this document, if you like, which goes, I think, to your question. I can take it on notice. Senator CAMERON: You can table it. Senator SIEWERT: That would be useful, but we may want more. Senator CAMERON: Yes. I have asked the question: what other documentation? You have spoken about what the verbal communication is from the Work for the Dole participants. I want to know what the host has to do. Ms Taylor: I have spoken about the provider's role. It is the provider's responsibility to ensure the places or projects that they put people into adhere to these. They will do that in conjunction with a host employer or, if it is a project, with an organisation where they are working with the project base. But I am happy to look at the question and see if we have any further information to provide.

**Answer**

The 'Setting up and Managing a Work Experience Activity Guideline' and the 'Work Experience Activity Type Guideline' were tabled on the day and are available on the Parliament of Australia website. These outline the requirements for work experience activities including:

- the obligations of Job Services Australia providers in delivering activities and ensuring Host Organisations meet certain requirements.
- what type of organisations can host a Work for the Dole activity, for example not-for-profit organisations, organisations that provide services for their local community and local, state/territory and Australian Government organisations and agencies.
- expected outcomes including building skills in demand in the local labour market, addressing non-vocational barriers, and/or providing genuine work-like experiences.
- the aims of Work for the Dole activities such as experience in an existing workplace and an opportunity to be part of a team and/or be mentored.