

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

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

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM1542_15

Senator Rice provided in writing.

Question

Migrant Communities Employment Fund and CALD clients

1. Given the Migrant Communities Employment was cut and that there is evidence of the Job Seeker Network consistently failing CALD clients, how were recommendations from specialist employment and advocacy services on how to improve employment services for CALD clients incorporated into the current tender?
2. Specifically, which recommendations have been acted on, and how? Did you meet with the CALD specialist employment and advocacy services and get their input to the tender process?

Answer

The new employment services model which will begin on 1 July 2015 includes significant reforms to services provided to job seekers, including those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, to better meet the needs of employers and improve employment outcomes.

Public consultation on the Employment Services 2015 model took place through the Exposure Draft for the Employment Services 2015 Purchasing Arrangements which was released on 28 July 2014. Information sessions on the exposure draft were held in capital cities and some regional centres from 30 July 2014 to 5 August 2014.

The closing date for submissions was 28 August 2014 and 60 submissions on the Exposure Draft were received from employers and consumer representatives as well as current and potential providers. This included a number of representations from CALD organisations.

Feedback on the Exposure Draft was taken into account in finalising the Request for Tender for Employment Services 2015-2020 which was released on 7 October 2014.