

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

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

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM1544_15

Senator Rice provided in writing.

Question

Employment services for people of CALD backgrounds

This is a question with regard to the success rate of specialist employment services for people of CALD backgrounds, for example the implementation of mentoring and work experience programs, and specialised partnership strengthening support. Given they demonstrably work, and given CALD clients are over-represented in the statistics of people not being effectively supported through the Job Seeker Network mainstream, why not fund specialist services?

Answer

The new employment services model to 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.

All employment providers will be expected to deliver services to the full range of job seekers in the region, tailoring the assistance based on the needs of the individual job seeker and with specialised approaches in locations with significant numbers of people from particular client groups, such as job seekers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

In responding to the Request for Tender for Employment Services 2015-2020 released on 7 October 2014, organisations needed to identify their strategies for achieving outcomes for job seekers, including their specific strategies for cohorts of job seekers represented in the regions in which they were bidding for employment provider services.

The outcomes of the Request for Tender are expected to be announced in late March 2015.