

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

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

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM1624_15

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Question

Local Employment Coordinators

Why did the Government provide funding for Geelong to retain its LEC for a year longer than all other areas, including some areas with higher unemployment than the Geelong area? How was Geelong prioritised as the site most in need of the coordinator. How long is the coordinator employed for? Where did this funding come from?

Answer

1. The Government recognised that Geelong region was experiencing a period of significant structural adjustment with a number of large scale business closures, including FORD and ALCOA.
2. The Geelong Local Employment Coordinator (LEC) services had only been operating for nine months prior to this extension. Strong connections with the local business community had started to deliver a steady stream of employment opportunities with strong prospects for this to continue for another year.
3. The Government extended the Local Employment Facilitator in the Greater Geelong Area to 30 June 2015.
4. The funding for the extension of the Geelong Employment Facilitator came from within existing resources.