

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2006-2007, 1 November 2006

QUESTION No.SI-73

Senator Carr asked:

Is the Department aware of the low recognition of the TCF SAP within the Job Network? What is the Department's explanation for why this is the case?

ANSWER

There are communication strategies aimed at employers, affected workers and Job Network members to ensure that there is wide knowledge of the Program. These strategies are delivered by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) which administers Part 1 of TCF SAP (providing assistance to retrenched TCF employees). The strategy includes:

- Having processes in place that allow DEWR to be informed of impending redundancies. Under the Workplace Relations Act, employers are required to notify Centrelink of redundancies involving 15 or more employees. DEWR has well established processes in place with Centrelink to receive notification of these redundancies, including for the TCF industry. DEWR also receives industry intelligence passed on by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources (DITR).
- On DEWR's becoming aware of redundancies, it immediately contacts the employer to advise them about the package and to arrange for information to go to affected employees. Where the employer agrees, DEWR visits the site and provides information directly to workers. Where the employer does not agree to a visit, DEWR provides the employer with copies of an information kit to distribute to workers. The information kit is available in community languages if required.
- Communication with Job Network members. There are two components of DEWR's communication strategy for Job Network members:
 - Ongoing work to raise the awareness of the package including placing regular articles about the TCF SAP in the JNM journal; placing detailed information about the TCF SAP on the JNM secure website and writing to JNM Chief Executive Officers about the TCF SAP.
 - On becoming aware of redundancies, notifying local JNMs of the redundancies and the affected workers' eligibility for the TCF SAP.

QUESTION No.SI-74

Senator Carr asked:

Does the Department brief Job Network staff on this program?

ANSWER

The Department works in close cooperation with DEWR so that timely information about the Program is able to be disseminated to interested parties, including Job Network. As noted above, DEWR has in place a number of measures for ongoing communication with Job Network members regarding the Program.