

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** All  
**Output Group:** All

#### **DEST Question No. E848\_05**

Senator Carr asked on 16 February 2005, EWRE Hansard page 102.

#### **Question:**

- a) Ms Paul, is there an appropriation you could call upon, given that we do not know the size of the demand?
- b) Is there a finite resource that is available?
- c) I would like to know what the expectation of the cost is.

#### **Answer:**

- a) Relocation costs are paid from the appropriation to meet departmental expenses.
- b) While each of the various components of relocation assistance have upper dollar amounts and/or maximum time limits there is no cap on the overall cost of a persons relocation entitlements.
- c) Entitlements on relocation are based on the person's living circumstances at the pre-transfer locality and their intended living circumstances at the transfer locality. A principle of 'like to like' is used to assess entitlements.

For example, where an individual currently rents at the pre-transfer locality, allowances would be based on the person and their dependants settling in to rented accommodation at the transfer locality. The actual cost of relocating an employee varies considerably and there is no meaningful 'average' unit cost. Cost may be as little as payment of the \$600 Disturbance Allowance and a car allowance for a person with no dependants and personal effects that can be transported in their car, to a person who is a home owner with several dependant family members who may be entitled to the \$1200 Disturbance Allowance, up to 12 months rental support, assistance with the costs of selling and buying a house and relocation of substantial furniture and effects.