

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION  
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2005-2006 ADDITIONAL SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING  
16 FEBRUARY 2006  
EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Outcome 1: Efficient and effective labour market assistance**

**Output Group 1.2: Labour market programme management and delivery**

**Output 1.2.2: Employment Services**

**Question Number: W665-06**

**Question:**

Senator Conroy asked in writing: In July 2005 DEWR announced that it would discontinue funding arrangements that would permit a person assisted by a Business Service - funded by FaCSIA - to obtain simultaneous assistance from DEWR funded employment services. Given the Government's policy framework of choice, flexibility, a work-first approach, a commitment to providing supported employees with more opportunities, and the PM's 2001 commitment to break down the silos between departments, why has the policy of dual funding been abandoned?

**Answer:**

The Government is committed to breaking down silos between departments. The answer though is not supporting double funding as an acceptable way of breaking down silos.

From July 2005, the policy was changed to exclude people with disabilities who were already employed in a Business Service from simultaneously accessing open employment assistance. This was to enable greater access to people with disabilities without current employment.