

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

**2006-2007 ADDITIONAL SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING  
15 FEBRUARY 2007  
EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Outcome 3: Increased workforce participation**

**Output Group 3.2: Labour market strategies**

**Output 3.2.3: CDEP management (Community Development  
Employment Projects)**

**Question Number: W1062-07**

**Question:**

Senator Crossin asked at *Hansard* page 48:

CDEP in urban areas will end at the end of June. The Darwin Regional CDEP and Larrakia CDEP have well over 300 participants at present. What will happen to them? Will they all suddenly be expected to get jobs? What help and support have they been given to assist them plan for this massive change?

**Answer:**

Only those CDEP participants located in urban and regional centres with strong labour markets are affected by the changes. If a service provider currently delivers CDEP services in one of the affected locations as well as in other more remote locations, the CDEP activities in more remote locations will continue to receive funding, subject to the usual competitive funding process.

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) is working with the Darwin Regional CDEP to assist the organisation and its participants' transition to the new Indigenous employment service delivery model. This includes moving job ready participants into employment wherever possible.

The circumstances of participants and local labour market conditions are being included in the transition strategy developed with Darwin Regional CDEP.

Where it is not possible to place people directly into jobs, DEWR will focus on ensuring that former CDEP participants receive the most appropriate assistance for their personal circumstances. This may involve moving onto income support. DEWR is working closely with Centrelink and is conducting joint meetings with Darwin Regional CDEP and participants during the transition period to discuss participants' options under the new model and to assist them in testing their eligibility for income support.

Eligible job seekers will have access to the full range of Australian Government Employment Services, including the Job Network, Personal Support Programme, the Job Placement Employment and Training programme, Vocational Rehabilitation Services and the Disability Employment Network. Former CDEP participants may also be supported through priority access to Structured Training and Employment Projects' Brokers if that is the most appropriate type of assistance for them.

As part of the transition communications strategy, the Department continues to help CDEP participants understand how the changes affect them and what their options will be. Letters setting out the specific details of the changes for CDEP and Indigenous Employment Centre participants have already been delivered to participants through their CDEP service providers. Participants will also be provided with further information in the joint DEWR and Centrelink meetings that have been arranged for the transition period.

**Estimated cost:** Using the FOI calculator, to prepare this answer it has taken approximately 6.5 hours at an estimated cost of \$130.