

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2009-2010**

**Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0836\_10**

**Senator Cash provided in writing.**

**Question**

**DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

1) I refer to the Minister's letter to Members and Senators on 9 December 2009, setting out changes to the Employment Assistance with people for disability and the outcome of the recent purchasing process. In the letter the Minister advised that from 1 March 2010 the new Disability Employment Services will be implemented across Australia. Accompanying the letter were various fact sheets. In the letter the Minister stated that "Disability Employment Services are a significant improvement in services for people with disability, their families and carers and employers". a) What does the Minister intend the words 'significant improvement' to mean? b) What specific measures has the Minister employed to determine that "significant improvement" has occurred? c) Will the Minister provide specific examples to sustain his claim that 'significant improvement' has occurred?

**Answer**

a)– c) Disability Employment Services introduce a range of significant service improvements, including:

- uncapping services, giving all eligible job seekers access to services
- extra resources for providers servicing remote areas
- a stronger focus on job outcomes, and
- new incentives for providers to achieve skills development, education and training placements.