

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

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

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW0838_10

Senator Cash provided in writing.

Question

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

12) In the letter dated 9 December 2009 and the accompanying information fact sheets, the Minister claims that “the Department undertook a rigorous and comprehensive assessment of all submissions to select the best service providers”. Please provide an outline of this assessment process highlighting what criteria were used to determine “the best providers”.

Answer

The Selection Criteria are set out in the *Request for Tender for Disability Employment Services 2010-2012*.

A comprehensive assessment and review process was undertaken. Information about the purchasing process and outcomes is available at www.workplace.gov.au/espurchasing.

The process was supported by robust governance arrangements including advice from an internal legal advisor, independent probity advice and purchasing expertise.

The process was monitored throughout and at each milestone by the independent Probity Adviser, Clayton Utz, which was satisfied that the process met all probity requirements and has given an unqualified sign off.