

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

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

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW0844_10

Senator Cash provided in writing.

Question

SIMPLER DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

In the fact sheet under the heading "Simpler Disability Employment Services" the Minister claims that the new Disability Employment Services will see a "reduction of administrative burden and red tape". a) What specific administrative burden and red tape is the Minister referring to and what is the extent of this burden and red tape? b) How does the Minister intend to achieve this reduction?

Answer

The former Disability Employment Network and Vocational Rehabilitation Services had complex program elements, including a complex referral process and multiple payment points and fee levels.

The new Disability Employment Services is less complex in comparison and red tape is reduced through a range of changes including:

- reduced overheads for organisations as programs are streamlined from four programs with different service models to two programs with services tailored to individual needs
- a simpler fee model, with employment assistance service fees paid in advance on a quarterly basis
- a Funding Level Tool to determine Employment Support Service participants' funding level that replaces the administratively burdensome Disability Pre-employment Instrument
- better alignment of the Department's contract monitoring framework with the Disability Service Standards under the *Disability Services Act 1986*
- a more efficient IT system.

The Department will continue to work with Disability Employment Services to examine further options to streamline administration.