

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW1016_11

Senator Fifield provided in writing.

Question

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT - JOB ASSESSMENTS

Please detail how Disability Employment Services work in terms of assessments of clients. I understand that where a client is identified as having a need for a job assessment that this work is put out for the various Disability Employment Service Providers to take. Is that the case? Presumably the organisations receive some taxpayer funding to carry out these assessments. Can you tell me how much is received per assessment? I am aware of one case in the South-West of WA where a number of people with disabilities will have their assessments undertaken by an assessor from one of the Eastern States, even though there are some local assessors in the area who can undertake the work. Can you explain how something like that might happen? An assessor flying all the way across the country to do work that locals can do? Is that a good use of the resources allocated to disability employment services?

Answer

The Department engages panel members under the Disability Employment National Panel of Assessors Deed of Standing Offer 2010-2012 to deliver Ongoing Support, Supported Wage System and Workplace Modifications assessments. Panel members were selected to deliver the assessment services in geographic locations called Employment Services Areas. This information was outlined in the Request for Tender for Disability Employment Services 2010-2012: Program A and Employer Incentives Scheme which was released on Austender on 21 August 2009.

Assessments are allocated on an equitable basis to panel members who are contracted to deliver assessment services in the relevant Employment Service Areas. The only exception to this is where, under workplace modification assessments, the participant requires a specialist assessment (e.g. vision impaired). The Deed of Standing Offer does not require Panel members to employ assessors who reside in the local area.

Panel members receive Assessment Fees which were outlined in the Request for Tender for completion of the assessments. These fees are outlined below.

Ongoing Support Assessment Fees are payable on completion of an Ongoing

Support assessment and assessment report at the rate of \$420 (GST inclusive) or \$714 (GST inclusive) if the assessment is for a Remote Employment Service Area. There are no additional fees for travel costs.

Supported Wage System Fees are payable on completion of a Supported Wage System assessment and assessment report at the rate of \$600 (GST inclusive) or \$1,020 (GST inclusive) if the assessment is for a Remote Employment Service Area. Where a Supported Wage System assessment will take more than five (5) hours to complete, additional fees may be payable for up to an additional 4 hours at \$120 per hour (GST inclusive), or \$204 per hour (GST inclusive) for a Remote Assessment may be approved. There are no additional fees for travel costs.

Workplace Modifications Assessment Fees are payable on completion of a Workplace Modifications assessment and assessment report at the rate of \$120 (GST inclusive) up to a maximum of \$1,080 (GST inclusive). There is no additional assessment fee for Remote assessments. Where a panel member has to travel more than 200 km to complete an assessment, accommodation and meal expenses may be reimbursed and \$50 (GST inclusive) per hour for travel time, up to a maximum of eight (8) hours per day may be payable. This allows flexibility for specialist workplace modifications assessors to conduct assessments in locations where there are no available or suitable assessors available.