

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

**Outcome 3 - Employment**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0873\_13

**Senator Sinodinos provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Disability Employment Services**

1. What is the current caseload for Disability Employment Services? 2. What is the current caseload for ESS? 3. What is the current caseload for DMS? 4. How many specialist providers were offered contracts from the last tender? 5. Is this an increase from the previous contract? 6. What has been the total percentage of DMS participants who have been placed in employment to date? 7. What has been the total percentage of ESS participants who have been placed in employment to date? 8. What proportion of each caseload is on a Supported Wage Subsidy? 9. What has been the total spend in the last financial year from the Workplace Modifications Scheme for DMS and ESS participants? 10. Can the Department confirm whether funding for Auslan interpreters is available for Disability Employment Services customers?

**Answer**

1. At 31 December 2012 the Disability Employment Services (DES) caseload was 149 920.

2. At 31 December 2012 the DES-ESS caseload was 74 118.

3. At 31 December 2012 the DES-DMS caseload was 75 802.

4. As a result of the DES-Employment Support Service Tender, there are 95 specialist services from 4 March 2013.

5. Until 3 March 2013, 113 specialist services operated in DES-ESS. While there is a reduction in the number of specialist services operating from 4 March 2013 there is an increase in the number of sites which will ensure better geographic coverage. Sites delivering specialist services have increased from approximately 170 to 201.

A wider range of specialist services that go beyond disability types is also available, including specialisations such as youth and homelessness.

6. From the commencement of the DES-DMS contracts in March 2010, and up to 31 December 2012, 33.5% of participants in DES-DMS were placed into employment.

7. From the commencement of the DES-ESS contracts in March 2010, and up to 31 December 2012, 32.2% of participants in DES-ESS were placed into employment.

8. For Disability Management Service (DMS), the proportion of the caseload on the Supported Wage System is less than 1%. In the Employment Support Service (ESS), it is 3.95%.

9. From 1 March 2010 Auslan and the Workplace Modification Scheme were replaced by the Employment Assistance Fund.

EAF Spending for DMS and ESS Participants has been as follows:

2010-11

DMS: \$1 024 941

ESS: \$4 014 919

2011-12

DMS: \$900 720

ESS: \$4 862 470

These figures indicate that the total yearly EAF Expenditure for DMS and ESS Clients increased by 14% in 2011-12 compared to the previous financial year.

10. Yes. Auslan interpreting assistance can be accessed through the Employment Assistance Fund and is available for all eligible persons, including DES participants, who require Auslan interpreting assistance to either look for employment, or overcome work-related barriers.