

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2003-2004 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING
31 May 2004**

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 1: An effectively functioning labour market

Output Group 1.1: Labour market policy and analysis

Output 1.1.1: Policy advice

Question Number: W058-05 Cross reference: DEST E304_05

Question:

Senator Crossin asked:

“Some \$12.1m was allocated to improve workforce participation by mature age workers. How much of this is actually for training programs and how much is for the ‘information campaign’?”

Answer:

The \$12.1 million provided for the Mature Age Employment and Workplace Strategy (MAEWS) will fund a variety of activities aimed at improving the labour market participation of mature age people. Increasing mature age participation has been identified by the Government as a key response to counter the negative effects of demographic change.

The MAEWS is comprised of three elements: Jobwise Outreach, the Mature Age Workplace Strategy and the Mature Age Industry Strategy.

No ‘information campaign’ as such is involved. Information on demographic change and mature age employment will, however, be disseminated through a number of mechanisms, often at a local level. These include:

- Labour Market Update Seminars – will focus on local employment service providers and other intermediaries at a regional level;
- The Jobwise Workshops and Self Help Groups - will focus on mature age job seekers at a regional level;
- Jobwise Portal – will enhance the existing Jobwise site to provide a central information source for both employers and mature age job seekers on mature age employment;
- Business Learning Networks – will focus on employers, particularly small to medium enterprises, at a local level; and
- Mature Age Voluntary Guidelines – will provide guidance to employers on workplace flexibilities, best practice and case studies.