

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

**2005-2006 BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
30 ,31 MAY and 3 JUNE 2005**

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 1: Efficient and effective labour market assistance

Output Group: 1.2 Labour Market Programme Management and Delivery

Output: 1.2.2 Employment Services

Question Number: W056-06

Question:

Senator Wong asked at *Hansard* page 30:

What steps is the Department taking to examine the \$10,000 wage subsidy, the nature of the job seekers, including their level of capacity, disability and their JSCI profile?

Answer:

Job Network members are bound by the Employment Services Contract 2003-2006 and the associated Job Seeker Account expenditure principles to ensure that wage subsidies reflect job seekers' individual needs and barriers to employment. A full copy of the Job Seeker Account expenditure principles has been provided in response to **W179-06**.

State Contract Managers monitor Job Seeker Account usage at the site and organisation level and ensure purchases are consistent with the expenditure principles and Contract. This occurs through monitoring visits and file checks, Quality Audits, desk top monitoring of records and expenditure trends and the analysis of particular claims including those of high value and the characteristics of the job seeker who received the assistance.

The Department also undertakes national programme management activities including data analysis, and evaluation and follow up of any matters brought to attention, for example, through the Customer Service Line.

Organisational and site profiles of Job Seeker Account usage are also included in summary health checks that allow Contract Managers and the Department's National Office to compare spending patterns of individual Job Network members compared to local Employment Service Area and national practices

In addition, the Department's national programme area and State Offices conduct a range of periodic programme assurance activities and data analysis to ensure the Job Seeker Account is used in accordance with the requirements of the Contract and Principles.

Examination of Job Seeker Account usage includes examination of individual job seeker characteristics where this is applicable. The department's examination of significant wage subsidies has shown that these are overwhelmingly directed at highly disadvantaged job seekers who are very long term unemployed, mature aged, have a disability or are long term unemployed Indigenous Australians.