

**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

Outputs: 1.2.2 Employment Services

Question Number: W060-06

Question:

Senator Wong asked at *Hansard* page 34:

Is the Department able to provide a copy of Ms Golightly's letter of 27 April 2005 to Job Network providers?

Answer:

An extract of the letter of 27 April 2005 to Job Network members which relates to the Job Seeker Account is attached. A copy of the updated advice referred to in this letter is provided in response to **2005-2006 Budget Senate Estimates Hearing, Question W179-06.**



- EXTRACT ON THE JOB SEEKER ACCOUNT-

Dear Chief Executive Officer

I am writing to you on the use of the Job Seeker Account to provide transport assistance.

At the National Employment Services Association CEO Conference on 14 April 2005, the Hon Peter Dutton MP, Minister for Workforce Participation, indicated that as a result of your feedback he would give further consideration to fares and transport assistance purchased using the Job Seeker Account.

As discussed at the conference, it was not the Minister's intention to prohibit the use of the Job Seeker Account to provide fares and transport assistance for job seekers where there is genuine need. To reflect this, the Minister has approved updated advice indicating that:

- JNMs need to assess the individual needs of the job seeker prior to offering transport assistance, including taking into account that job seekers have a responsibility themselves with regard to their search for work, and the option which represents the best value for money to meet the job seeker's needs;
- assistance with transport costs is a short term solution to address specific barriers to securing employment;
- where suitable public transport is available then JNMs may assist with fares;
- JNMs may provide fuel assistance where this is the best value for money; and
- where suitable public transport is not available JNMs may provide other types of transport assistance.

This update continues to ensure that the use of the Job Seeker Account is clearly linked to assisting job seekers into sustainable employment and is able to withstand rigorous public scrutiny. A full copy of the guidance is attached and will be available through the Employment and Community Services Network site.

- END OF JOB SEEKER ACCOUNT MATERIAL

Yours sincerely

Malisa Golightly
Deputy Secretary, Employment

27 April 2005