

**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 3: Increased Workforce Participation

Output Group 3.2: Labour Market Strategies

Outputs 3.2.3: CDEP Management

Question Number: W086-06

Question:

Senator Crossin provided in writing:

It is said in the Discussion Paper that “solution brokers” will be placed in the 30 ICC’s. What are these? Are they new and additional staff? What exactly is their role? What experience and skills will they have? What level will they be at?

Answer:

Solution brokers are newly created positions. DEWR appointments have been at the APS 6 or Executive 1 level. DEWR has allocated a solution broker for every ICC location. DEWR solution brokers are primarily responsible for promoting and implementing innovative employment, training and enterprise opportunities for Indigenous Australians in their ICC region. This includes:

- Contributing to the development of Regional Partnership Agreements (RPAs) and Shared Responsibility Agreements (SRAs);
- Brokering partnerships with other government agencies, external organisations and Indigenous communities to facilitate employment, training and enterprise opportunities;
- Identifying and addressing gaps or duplication in service delivery to create further opportunities for streamlining and innovation;
- Coordinating and representing DEWR in various inter-agency and external fora, such as workshops, seminars and conferences on local labour market conditions, employment, training and business development services;
- Advising key stakeholders of DEWR’s mainstream and Indigenous-specific employment, workforce participation and business development programmes; and
- Supporting the implementation of new employment, training and business development initiatives in the region.

Since November 2004 DEWR has been delivering a one-day 'Introduction to Solution Brokering' training programme for its staff. This programme aims to increase staff capability to develop and foster successful business relationships with clients and among third parties to broker innovative and effective business solutions to achieve departmental objectives.

In addition, DEWR ICC solution brokers attended a two-day workshop in April 2005. This workshop identified issues and challenges faced by ICC solution brokers and the skills required to contribute to Whole-of-Government responses to Indigenous community needs.