

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

**2006-2007 BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
29TH AND 30TH MAY 2006
EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 3: Increased workforce participation

Output Group: 3.2 Labour market strategies

Output: 3.2.3 CDEP Management

Question Number: W045-07

Question:

Senator Crossin asked in writing:

CDEPs have supported New Apprenticeships with a high degree of success. The new Guidelines for post July 1 participants will now make it impossible to commit to four year Trade Apprenticeships or even 12 month New Apprenticeships (Traineeships). Is it counterproductive to limit skill acquisition and promote community sustainability and most importantly developing role models within communities?

Answer:

New Guidelines which limit participation in CDEP to 52 weeks in urban and regional centres have been introduced to ensure that CDEP is a stepping stone to better opportunities, not a long-term destination.

New participants living in these areas will join the CDEP programme with the knowledge and their agreement that participation is limited to 52 weeks. Any apprenticeships or host agreements will be entered into on this basis. Time limiting has been introduced in regions that have a strong employment market and in areas that can sustain a permanent Job Network member, therefore providing good opportunities for participants to find employment off CDEP.

CDEP organisations can continue to engage with local agencies and employers to find participants appropriate apprenticeships or training opportunities in their area. The Australian Apprentices Access Programme provides pre-apprenticeship and pre-traineeship assistance for people who require extra help. Scholarships, tool kits and tutoring support are also available. Australian Apprentices are able to access payments such as Youth Allowance, Austudy and ABSTUDY. Participants who gain employment off CDEP have a greater chance of achieving economic independence and will therefore continue to act as role models within their community.