

**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: W046-07

Question:

Senator Crossin asked in writing:

It would seem that DEWR believe that the majority of CDEP participants are employable in the immediate future and are in part using this assumption to time limit to 12 months participation. Why would DEWR believe this in the absence of any hard evidence to support it and in fact this assumption is at odds with many of the programs DEWR currently manage to assist this target group?

Answer:

Time limited participation has been introduced for new participants from 1 July 2006 in regions that have a strong employment market and can sustain a permanent Job Network presence. There are many job opportunities and support services in these areas which can assist CDEP participants in the transition to employment outside the CDEP programme. Time limiting, combined with a requirement that participants in urban and regional centres register with a Job Network member, will assist CDEP participants in this transition.

Many people who join CDEP have been unemployed for short periods and in a strong labour market should be able to find work within 12 months with CDEP and Job Network assistance. In 2005-06 over 3 700 participants have found work outside CDEP.

If, at the end of a 12 month period, CDEP participants have not gained employment, they will continue to receive assistance from Job Network. Job Network is a comprehensive service, based on a job seeker's assessed level of disadvantage. It includes access to the Job Seeker Account and more intensive assistance for eligible job seekers.