

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

**2007-2008 BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
28 and 29 MAY 2007
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: **W143-08**

Question:

Senator Crossin asked at *Hansard* page 46:

How were the 137 areas determined? Which areas are identified as remote and what criteria were applied to establish them as remote?

Answer:

Employment Service Areas (ESAs) were introduced as part of the Tendering Conditions for the Employment Services Request for Tender (RFT) 1999. The RFT for Job Network Services released on 10 November 2005 on page 29 stated, "*For administrative purposes and to provide a wide geographical coverage, each [Labour Market Region] is further divided up into ESAs. ESAs generally consist of one or more Centrelink CSC regions. There are 137 ESAs.*"

In July 2006, the *Remote Services Deed 2006-2009* (the deed) commenced operation. Services under the deed were offered in selected locations where business was available for tender at that time. In determining locations to be included in the RFT for the deed, the department had regard to a wide range of factors including the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) and existing employment service delivery arrangements and coverage.

Estimated cost: Using the FOI calculator, to prepare this answer it has taken approximately 5 hours at an estimated cost of \$100.