

**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: W195-08

Question:

Senator Siewert asked in writing: Employment Assistance for People with Disabilities. a) How much is the monetary subsidy paid to employers who employ a disabled person under the Welfare to Work provisions and when was that amount determined? b) How is the monetary subsidy provided? Is it provided for the term of employment or is it a one off payment? c) How many people with disabilities have been placed in jobs so that their employers receive this subsidy since 1 July 2006? d) How many federally funded employment services specialise in finding employment for people with disabilities?

Answer:

- a) The Wage Subsidy Scheme provides a maximum subsidy of \$1500 (excluding GST) for job seekers registered with Disability Employment Network (DEN) providers or Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS). This has been in place since 1998 and includes any associated administration costs of no more than \$100. Job Network members are able to use the Job Seeker Account for wage subsidies for people with disability. Question on Notice W232-08 contains further information on the Job Seeker Account.
- b) The Wage Subsidy Scheme is administered and paid to, employers by DEN and VRS providers. DEN and VRS providers are able to negotiate the date of payment of the subsidy with an employer. The payment may be made in instalments during the subsidy period or at the end of the subsidy period.
- c) From 1 July 2006 to 31 March 2007, 3292 Job Seekers were assisted under the Wage Subsidy Scheme.

- d) Within the Employment and Workplace Relations portfolio, there are 232 organisations delivering DEN services and 19 organisations delivering VRS. There are also 12 Job Network members that specialise in assisting people with disability. In addition, all 101 Job Network members are required to tailor their services to the needs of each job seeker, including any disability they may have.

Estimated cost: Using the FOI calculator, to prepare this answer it has taken approximately 3 hours at an estimated cost of \$60.00.