

**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 3: Increased workforce participation

Output Group 3.1: Working age policy

Output: 3.1.1 Working age policy and legislation

Question Number: W196-08

Question:

Senator Siewert asked in writing:

To what extent if any is a person's previous work experience and qualifications taken into account when considering what constitutes a suitable job? For example if a person has worked in a particular field for in excess of 10 years and is completing a degree in that field is any job outside that field of experience considered suitable?

Answer:

To satisfy the activity test, a Newstart Allowance recipient must be actively seeking and willing to undertake any paid work other than paid work that is unsuitable for the person, as defined by legislation and policy. Job seekers must seek work in a variety of fields, not just those in which they have qualifications or experience.

Even so, Job Network providers, when referring job seekers to potential employers, are expected to take into account any previous experience and qualifications the job seeker has, without necessarily limiting referrals to the job seeker's preferred field.

Similar provisions relate to principal carers on Parenting Payment with participation requirements.

Estimated cost: Using the FOI calculator, to prepare this answer it has taken approximately one hour at an estimated cost of \$20.