

**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: W235-08

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing: Disability Employment Network referrals and commencements. In February, DEWR indicated that there were 20 050 referrals to DEN capped and only 12 020 commencements and in Uncapped DEN 5876 referrals and 5013 commencements. a) Can DEWR update with current figures on the number of referrals and commencements? b) Secondly can DEWR explain why there is a large discrepancy between the number of referrals and commencements in Capped DEN yet the same difference is not reflected in Uncapped DEN? c) Does this discrepancy indicate a problem with the new system of assessing eligibility for service through the JCA process?

Answer:

(a) From 1 July 2006 to 31 March 2007 total referrals to Disability Employment Network (DEN) are 26 901 to Capped and 7745 to Uncapped. For the same period total commencements in DEN are 15 384 to the Capped stream and 6428 to the Uncapped stream.

(b) Because in most cases, participation in DEN Uncapped is an Activity Test requirement under Social Security Law, the take up of referrals to DEN Uncapped would be expected to be higher then for DEN Capped, which is a voluntary programme. Some Capped referrals therefore choose not to accept the assistance offered or are engaged in other activities.

(c) No

Estimated cost: Using the FOI calculator, to prepare this answer it has taken approximately 4 hours at an estimated cost of \$80.40.