

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

**SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
2008-09 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING**

Outcome 4

DEEWR Question No. EW43_09

Senator Mason provided in writing.

Question

Productivity Places Program

DEEWR has decided that organisations will be eligible to receive the entire cost of an eligible vocational qualification, even if a participant is granted RPL. Is there the potential that the Department may be paying more for service provision than if they were paying separately for the RPL assessment, and just for the qualifications to be undertaken by the student?

Answer

The approach to funding RPL in this way is consistent with the approach taken throughout the vocational education system. This recognises that the training provider incurs significant costs with undertaking RPL processes for students. These costs include evidence collection and the assessment of competencies against the required training package outcomes. Differential payments for RPL have been found to discourage take up.