

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

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

Outcome 8

DEEWR Question No. EW89_09

Senator Abetz provided in writing

Question

134,000 job losses

The budget's labour market forecasts show:

- Employment growth halving from 2.5% to 1.25% in 2008-09
- Unemployment increasing from 4 to 4.75% by June 2009.

Translating these forecasts into an actual number, the halving of employment growth will result in 134,000 jobs being lost or not being created.

How have budget forecasts of dramatically slower employment growth and rising unemployment affected the department's own budget and its operational planning for 2008-09?

Answer

The Department is not resourced on the basis of changes in employment growth or the level of unemployment.