

**EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

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

**Outcome**           7

**DEEWR Question No. EW259\_09**

Senator Abetz asked on 17 June 2008 in writing.

**Question**

*Disability Employment Network Program funding and Outcome*

Table 2.7B on page 122 of the Portfolio Budget Statement indicates that the 2007–08 estimated actual proportion of Disability Employment Network job seekers who received assistance during 2007–08 that achieve a sustainable employment outcome (8 hours of work per week for 26 weeks) in the capped stream is 39%. The 2008–09 estimate is 35%. Can the Department explain this expected decrease?

**Answer**

Performance for the DEN program has increased steadily since the move to full Case Based Funding in mid-2005. The outcome of 39% in 2007–08 was higher than the target of 34%. The strong labour market that has existed over recent years has contributed to the outcomes being higher than the target. The increase in the outcome target from 34% in 2007–08 to 35% in 2008–09 reflects this continuing increase.