

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

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

Outcome 8

DEEWR Question No. EW261_09

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

Employment Services Review

Is it true that the predicted 52% of job seekers who are job ready will receive less assistance under the new model?

Answer

The new employment services system is not directly comparable to the existing system.

Greater focus will be given to the most disadvantaged job seekers under the new system with nearly half of the available resources directed to the more disadvantaged job seekers compared to one third in the current system.

More job seekers will be likely to receive more assistance sooner as they will be assessed and placed into one of four streams from day one. Almost 50 per cent of these job seekers will be placed into streams two to four. Providers will therefore be eligible for an outcome payment for almost 50 per cent of job seekers as soon as they register for assistance, compared to only around 10 per cent commencing under the current system. The current system provides services on a sequential basis so only around 10 per cent are eligible for intensive assistance from day one.

Stream 1 job seekers will be immediately assisted in the preparation of a resumé and advised about local labour market opportunities, as well as provided with a list of appropriate job vacancies and advice on the best ways to look for work. About a third of these job seekers are expected to find employment in the first three months.

Before the end of the fourth month, providers will assess the job seeker's skills and opportunities for further training through a 'skills assessment'. This is an additional service not currently provided in the existing model.

After undertaking a 'skills assessment', job seekers will be required to participate in an approved activity of 60 hours over a fortnight. The range of approved activities will be much broader than is available under the current system. Options under the new system will include: the development of job search techniques; referral to training, including the Productivity Places Program; or a work experience placement.

Between four and 12 months, the employment service provider will maintain regular contact with the job seeker. These contacts will be aimed at ensuring the job seeker remains focused on looking for work that is appropriate to their skills and the needs of the local labour market. Providers will receive increased funding, compared to the current system to undertake these contacts.

If, after 12 months, the job seeker has not found employment, they will undertake a review and either move to a higher service stream, or they will be assisted in an individually tailored work experience activity.