

## **EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

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

**Outcome**            7

#### **DEEWR Question No. EW264\_09**

Senator Abetz asked in writing.

#### **Question**

Will the Department implement a 'Stop the Clock' policy, so that providers are not disadvantaged performance-wise, when a job seeker is in training, therefore extending their duration of unemployment?

#### **Answer**

On 7 March 2008, the Minister for Employment Participation, the Hon Brendan O'Connor MP, wrote to the Chief Executive officers of employment service providers to announce that for Job Network and Disability Employment Network time spent by a job seeker in approved Productivity Places Program training will not count for star rating purposes (stopping the clock for this purpose). This measure will assist Australian workplaces and job seekers acquire much needed skills. This policy commenced on 1 April 2008.

This change relates to measurement of time for the purposes of calculating performance ratings under the current star rating systems and does not alter other data on job seeker unemployment duration.