

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

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

Outcome 8

DEEWR Question No. EW265_09

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

Employment Services Review

In May 2008, a Discussion Paper was released "The Future of Employment Services in Australia" which outlines the Government's proposed new employment services system to be introduced in July 2009.

The Employment Services Discussion Paper focuses heavily on winding back red tape. Can the Department provide examples where this can be undertaken against the current contract?"

Answer

The new employment services system will significantly reduce red tape in comparison to current employment services contracts. For example:

- The Government is replacing multiple existing programs with an integrated employment service. This will reduce the administrative burden on providers and red tape to allow providers to focus more on assisting job seekers into employment.
- The new Employment Pathway Fund will be governed by a principles-based approach that will ensure purchases:
 - are commensurate with the job seeker's level of disadvantage;
 - provide value for money;
 - withstand public scrutiny; and
 - do not bring the Employment Service or Commonwealth into disrepute.

A draft list of prohibited items for which the Employment Pathway Fund can not be used has been provided in the Exposure Draft of the New Employment Service 2009-12 Contract. This approach will make it simpler and easier for providers to purchase vocational and non-vocational assistance for job seekers; as well as work experience and other activities. The Employment Pathway Fund will replace the complex set of rules currently governing use of Job Seeker Account funds.

- A Charter of Contract Management will be developed in consultation with stakeholders to support DEEWR's National Contract Management Framework. The Charter will provide a principles-based approach to fostering cooperative and strategic business partnering relationships between DEEWR and Employment Services Providers.