

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

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

Outcome 7

DEEWR Question No. EW268_09

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

Job Seeker Account/Employment Pathway Fund

- i) The Employment Services Discussion Paper (page 8) states that 'an evaluation of the JSKA has shown the value of a flexible funding pool.' Why has the decision been made that the JSKA notional account will be replaced by the Employment Pathway Fund (EPF)?
- ii) Will the Employment Pathway Fund have the same flexibility as the Job Seeker Account?

Answer

- i) The Job Seeker Account Evaluation (DEWR 2006) found JSKA expenditure and interventions are not always well targeted. It notes that current JSKA rules are complex and too prescriptive, that providers consistently indicate they are extremely cautious about using the JSKA, that the JSKA has been under-utilised, and that the JSKA is not available to very disadvantaged job seekers in JPET and PSP services.
- ii) The Employment Pathway Fund will be more flexible than the Job Seeker Account.