

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

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

Outcome 7

DEEWR Question No. EW275_09

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

Job Network providers who are Registered Training Organisations

- i) How many of the current Job Network providers also have a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) arm of their business?
- ii) What mechanisms will the Department have in place to ensure that providers are not referring the majority of their caseload to training programs that their RTO arm offers?

Answer

- i) As at 5 May 2008, 50 of the current Network providers are Registered Training Organisations.
- ii) Job Network providers are bound by the Employment and Related Services Code of Practice under the Employment Services Contract 2006-09. The Code of Practice requires providers to uphold the integrity and good reputation of the program by behaving ethically, professionally and delivering services in accordance with contracted guidelines. This means Job Network providers should ensure referrals to a related entity training arm is in the best interests of the job seeker and is in accordance with the relevant program guidelines.

In addition, the Productivity Places Program guidelines require that where an 'actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest exists' the provider must demonstrate to the department how they will manage the conflict. This includes where a Job Network provider is the same organisation as the approved RTO or a related entity of an approved RTO.