

## EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

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

**Outcome** 8

#### **DEEWR Question No. EW276\_09**

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

#### **Question**

##### **Employment Services Review**

- i) Under the new Employment Services contract will job seekers who are reassessed in order to transfer from one stream to another be required to undergo a JSCI or a JCA or both?
- ii) When will a JCA be used?
- iii) If under the new contract, a job seeker does not turn up for a scheduled JCA, what happens to them?
- iv) How does the Department plan to address the risk of job seekers 'over-inflating' their individual barriers when they undertake a JSCI?

#### **Answer**

- i) Movement between the four Streams (including when the job seeker is in the Work Experience phase of a stream) will be determined by the job seeker's individual need and level of disadvantage as measured by the JSCI (and JCA where applicable).
- ii) JCAs supplement the JSCI for people who need a more thorough assessment of their employment barriers. The JCA is a comprehensive assessment of a job seeker's barriers and is conducted by appropriately experienced and qualified staff. The JCA also assesses the job seeker's capacity to work and identifies interventions which will help the job seeker overcome any barriers the person has in finding and keeping a job. The JCA will refer people to the most appropriate service for overcoming their barriers and assisting them to find work, including stream four and referring to services outside the employment services system, e.g. DEN or VRS.
- iii) If a job seeker does not turn up to a JCA, they may have their payments held to secure attendance at a JCA; but will not incur a penalty for failure to attend.
- iv) It is not expected that job seekers will 'over-inflate' their individual barriers any more than they have under previous versions of the JSCI.