

## EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

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

Outcome 7

#### DEEWR Question No. EW284\_09

Senator Abetz asked provided in writing.

**NOTE: THIS ANSWER IS NOT YET PUBLIC INFORMATION AND FOR PROBITY REASONS THIS ANSWER SHOULD NOT BE RELEASED UNTIL AFTER THE RELEASE OF THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES EXPOSURE DRAFT OF THE REQUEST FOR TENDER**

#### Question

- i) Under the new contract, what will be the maximum assistance that can be provided to someone (who previously would have been eligible for NEIS), from the Employment Pathway Fund?
- ii.) Under Employment Services Contract 3, what was the maximum assistance provided to a NEIS participant, including the NEIS Allowance, and NEIS Rental Assistance?

#### Answer

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Employment service providers will refer eligible job seekers to NEIS providers.

- i) As NEIS operates now, employment service providers will refer eligible job seekers to NEIS providers. The job seeker will then undergo training and develop a business plan prior to commencing their business. Once their business has commenced, eligible job seekers participating in NEIS will receive NEIS allowance for up to 52 weeks. NEIS Allowance is equivalent to the basic Newstart Allowance, (currently \$437.10 per fortnight, or a maximum of \$11 364 for the year). NEIS Rental Assistance will also be payable for up to six months to job seekers who are receiving Rent Assistance (in addition to their income support) when they commence in NEIS. The current rate for NEIS Rental Assistance is \$107.20 per fortnight, or a maximum of \$1393 for the year. NEIS participants will receive ongoing mentoring and support from their NEIS provider during the time they are in receipt of NEIS assistance. Mentoring and support services will be funded through the Employment Pathway Fund (EPF). Participating in the NEIS program will provide a participant with a nationally recognised qualification in Certificate IV in Business (Small Business Management), assistance with developing a business plan; and mentoring support for the first year of operation. An improved feature of NEIS under the new contract is that participants can do either a Certificate IV (as under Employment Services Contract 3) or a Certificate III in Micro-business. The training component of NEIS will be provided via the Productivity Places Program.
- ii) The same as above, with the exclusion of the possibility of doing a Certificate III in Micro-business for the training component of NEIS.