Outcome 4

DEEWR Question No. EW0126_10

Senator Adams asked provided in writing.

Question

Increasing the pension age to 67

By increasing the pension age to 67, this will mean people will remain in the workforce for longer periods of time.
Minister Jenny Macklin stated that 'people over 50 would be re-skilled', can you please explain what sort of re-skilling would be done for a 55 year old man who has been a carpenter since he was 16 and whose computer skills are basic?

Where will the funding for this 'reskilling' come from?

Answer

Mature age job seekers can train or re-skill in areas of skills shortage through the $2 billion Productivity Places Program. The Program provides 711 000 free training places over five years to eligible job seekers and workers, including those of mature age. Of these places, 392 000 are available to existing workers who wish to gain new skills or upgrade their existing skills and 319 000 (including 20 000 places for redundant and recently retrenched workers) are available to job seekers. A list of courses available through the Program can be found at: http://productivityplacesmis.deewr.gov.au/public/. Certificate level courses in Information Technology are among the courses available.

As part of Job Services Australia, mature age job seekers will work with their employment service provider to develop their own combination of job search, training and other assistance to find a job. The Employment Pathway Plan will bring together the various types of assistance—vocational and non-vocational—needed to address the barriers faced by that individual. The Employment Pathway Fund is a flexible pool of funding that will be available for use by providers to purchase assistance to address vocational and non-vocational barriers (including training) and to provide Work Experience Activities.