

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009–10**

**Outcome 4**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0169\_10**

Senator Cash asked on 1 June 2009, EEWL Hansard page 17.

**Question**

*Mature age strategy*

Was the mature age strategy effective?  
Was there an evaluation of the program?

**Answer**

The Mature Age Employment and Workplace Strategy (MAEWS) was announced in the 2004–05 Budget and provided funding of \$3 million a year for four years. The Department contracted TNS Social Research to conduct an evaluation of MAEWS between April 2007 and September 2007.

The evaluation found that overall, MAEWS successfully engaged mature age (45+) job seekers who were not otherwise receiving employment assistance through Job Network. It also engaged small to medium sized businesses that were having difficulty meeting their labour and skills demands.

The number of participants in the Jobwise Workshops and Wise Workforce sessions was lower than anticipated. The evaluation concluded that the reach of MAEWS could have been improved.