

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

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

**Question No. EW0189\_10**

Senator Cash asked on 1 June 2009, Hansard page 36.

**Question**

When you said that there were a couple of ESAs [where we did decide to bring in a new provider in addition to the ones that had already been offered business], which ESAs were you specifically referring to?

**Answer**

Final decisions had not been made at the time of the advice to preferred tenderers on 16 March 2009.

Consistent with paragraph 4.14 of the Request for Tender (RFT), the period between 16 March 2009, when preferred tenderers received the without prejudice advice of their status, and 31 March 2009, when final decisions were made, gave preferred tenderers the opportunity to bring any issues, or other relevant matters, to the Department's attention. This was particularly critical where some organisations could have proposed to use the same subcontractor.

Also, around that time the release of the new unemployment figures provided a more detailed picture of the extent of the impact of Global Financial Crisis.

A final review was undertaken to ensure that the level of service available in those locations was consistent with the demand for the service, and that job seekers, would be well serviced into the future by providing new services that would deliver better, more tailored assistance to job seekers, particular disadvantaged Australians, and place greater emphasis on assisting employers in addressing skills shortages.

The department's final decision saw four organisations that were not initially identified as preferred tenderers that subsequently received an offer of Job Services Australia business and nine organisations who received business in additional Employment Service Areas.

The ESAs where these changes were made were: Canterbury Bankstown NSW, Fairfield NSW, Inner Sydney NSW, Liverpool NSW, Macarthur NSW, Nepean NSW, Wollongong NSW, South Brisbane Qld, Northern Adelaide SA, Western Adelaide SA, Peninsula Vic, Westgate Vic. Central and West Metro WA, North Metro WA and East Metro WA.

Detailed consideration, assessment and quality assurance, all overseen by the probity adviser preceded the department's final decisions being made.