

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

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

**Outcome**            4

**Question No. EW0191\_10**

Senator Cash asked on Monday, EEWR Hansard page 37.

**Question**

In terms of the tender debrief for the New Employment Services Tender 2009 , face-to-face meetings were for the most part undertaken in capital cities, with the exception of, I believe, Cairns, Townsville, Bendigo, Newcastle and Orange. Based on that, what proportion of non-capital-city based providers attended these debriefs?

**Answer**

An offer of a tender debrief in relation to the *Request for Tender for Employment Services 2009-12* was made to all tenderers. This offer was communicated through the Request for Tender, correspondence with all tenderers regarding the outcomes of the tender process and on the department's internet website. Each tenderer could choose whether they wished to take up the offer of a debrief or not. Every tenderer who requested a debrief was provided with one.

It was a matter for each tenderer seeking debriefing to decide whether to arrange to attend a face-to-face session, and, if so, to choose a date and location that was most convenient, or else to request a telephone or videoconference session.

The locations initially advertised for face-to-face sessions were based on anticipated numbers of tenderers thought likely to seek a debriefing at those locations, which were identified as likely to be most convenient for tenderers on the basis of past experience, and the levels of attendance at the earlier information sessions. Almost three weeks' notice was given of the locations available for face-to-face debrief sessions, which were advertised as being on seven days over two weeks. Ultimately not all available session times were booked. It was open to tenderers, who needed to do so, to contact the department to make alternative arrangements that best suited them.

As at 29 June 2009, 145 tender debrief sessions in relation to the *Request for Tender for Employment Services 2009-12* have been requested and have been completed.

Of the 145 tender debrief sessions, 109 were face-to-face, in accordance with the request in that regard of the tenderers concerned. Of the 109 face to face debrief sessions, 40 were attended by non-capital-city based tenderers.