

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

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

Outcome 4

DEEWR Question No. EW0223_10

Senator Cash asked on 1 June 2009, EEWR Hansard page 61.

Question

Is the department aware of complaints through the former Minister's Office regarding employment service providers contacting recruitment agencies to obtain details of job placements for the purposes of claiming fees under the Employment Services Contract 2006-09 (ESC3) and that this practice was increasing? Is there a process in place to ensure that when a recruitment agency does place someone in employment, the provider cannot claim that placement fee?

Answer

The department has no record of a complaint through the former Minister's Office or otherwise making this allegation.

The department has extensive monitoring and assurance processes in place to ensure that Providers do not claim fees they are not eligible for including: program monitoring, systems-based checks on claims for payment, program assurance activities, fraud and risk plans, and post-program monitoring. The JPL and ESC3 prevented the lodgement of more than one claim, by one or more providers, for the same fees. If any provider was found to have breached these clauses, the department could recover any monies paid.