

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW0150_12

Senator Fierravanti-Wells provided in writing.

Question

National Mental Health Reform – Increased Employment Participation for People with Mental Illness

I refer to p. 34 of the Portfolio Budget Statement, DEEWR Budget Statement. Please provide details of the National Mental Health Reform – increased employment participation for people with mental illness including: (a) the nature of the program/s (b) spending over forward estimates (c) key deliverables for the program/s

Answer

a) The nature of the program/s

The measure consists of three components. The first component will build the capacity of employment service providers and Department of Human Services (DHS) staff to identify and assist people with mental illness to gain employment. The second component will expand the JobAccess service to include professionals in the mental health area and to promote this service to employers, job seekers and the community at large. The final component is a review of the Supported Wage System to assess whether enhancements can be made to the program to improve its applicability to job seekers with mental illness.

In reference to Question No EWO151_12 that question concerns departmental capital expenses, while this measure referred to on page 34 concerns administered expenses.

b) Spending over forward estimates

The spending on this measure over the forward estimates is \$1.019 million in 2011–12 and \$0.335 million per annum for the following years.

c) Key deliverables for the program/s

The deliverables include:

- Provision of mental health online training to all employment services provider front line staff to increase their capacity to assist people with mental illness to gain employment.
- the number of employers and job seekers with mental illness who are assisted by mental health professionals by the JobAccess advice service.
- Provision of advice to Government on the findings from the review of the Supported Wage System.