

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Outcome 3 – Employment

DEEWR Question No. EW0128_13

Senator Macdonald provided in writing.

Question

Remote Jobs and Community Program (RJCP)

The Government has announced in its 2012-13 Budget Paper that \$745.6m will be spent over four years to establish the RJCP.

1. The program appears to include substantial community engagement. What degree of engagement with the private sector has taken place to ensure accreditation of the skills-sets developed under the program?
2. Has the department consulted with industry to determine outcomes and deployment models?

Answer

1. Since the announcement of the review of remote services in the 2011-12 Budget, the Government appointed a Remote Participation and Employment Services Engagement Panel to provide expert advice on effective engagement for remote communities and the development of new remote participation and employment services. The membership of the Panel included prominent Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians with strong track records in the private sector and as providers of remote participation and employment services. Ms Melanie Stutsel, Director, Health, Safety, Environment and Community Policy, Minerals Council of Australia was a member of the panel representing industry and the private sector. The Panel met three times over July 2011 to April 2012. The complete list of Panel membership is at [Attachment A](#).

In August 2011, the Government released the public discussion paper '*The Future of Remote Participation and Employment Servicing Arrangements*' and received 68 written submissions. This included submissions from Minerals Council of Australia and the Construction Industry Training Board.

The Department also conducted 42 Consultation forums with people in remote communities, service providers, employers and other stakeholders during August and September 2011. Over 1200 people participated in these forums.

2. A key message from these consultations (including from employers), which is reflected in the Remote Jobs and Communities Program, was that training needs to be linked to the skills demanded by employers. The consultations, also indicated the need for:

- a simplified and integrated service delivery with the presence of a a single provider on the ground;
- flexibility so that new arrangements can operate in a variety of community settings;
- meaningful participation in activities that build community capacity, and improve work readiness and community ownership and involvement in services delivered;
- focus on youth to ensure young people transition successfully from school to work with improved foundational skills;
- local jobs in local communities and support for assistance for people who want to move to take up work; and
- a compliance framework with consistent and timely enforcement.

The Remote Jobs and Communities Program has a strong 'jobs first' focus with an emphasis on helping people build the foundational and life skills they need to take up available jobs.

**Remote Participation and Employment Services Engagement Panel
Membership**

Ms Shirley McPherson	Chair, Indigenous Land Corporation
Mr John Berto	Chief Executive Officer, Thamarrurr Development Corporation
Ms Pat Brahim	General Manager, Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation
Mr Nolan Hunter	Acting Chief Executive Officer, Kimberley Land Council
Ms Suzannah Kuzio	Chief Executive Officer, Community Enterprises Australia Ltd
Ms Sally Sinclair	Chief Executive Officer, National Employment Services Association
Ms Melanie Stutsel	Director, Health, Safety, Environment and Community Policy, Minerals Council of Australia.