

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

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

**Outcome 3 – Employment**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0237\_13**

**Senator Cash asked on 29 June 2012 , Hansard page 28**

**Question**

***Jobs Services Australia relocation pilot***

Senator CASH: For example, then, in relation to the 12-week period, would any of the 10 people who have been either applied or not applied have to repay their relocation expenses on the basis that they have returned to the system?

Mr Watson: It is difficult for me to see a circumstance where we would claim the money back, but I will take that on notice and have a look more closely.

**Answer**

If a provider has not satisfactorily administered Connecting People with Jobs funds, the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations may recover these funds from the provider. If a job seeker has fraudulently sought support for a move, for example where the identified job does not exist; the Department can take steps to refer the matter for fraud investigation and potentially criminal prosecution.

The Department has not required any job seeker to repay the relocation assistance they received under Connecting People with Jobs as at 31 March 2012.

A 12-week income support non-payment period may be applied where the job seeker after relocating voluntarily leaves work or is dismissed for misconduct within the first six months of commencing a job. Under these circumstances the job seeker would not be required to repay the relocation expenses.