

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION  
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2005-2006 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING  
2 and 3 NOVEMBER 2005**

**EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Outcome 3: Increased Workforce Participation**

**Output Group 3.1: Working age policy**

**Outputs 3.1.1: Working age policy legislation**

**Question Number: W466-06**

**Question:**

Senator Evans asked in writing:

In relation to the Shepparton Indigenous COAG trial, please provide a brief description of the elements of the trial the Department is leading? What specific initiatives are being implemented?

**Answer:**

- a. The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations has handed the lead agency responsibilities for the Shepparton COAG trial site to the Indigenous Coordination Centre. The Indigenous Coordination Centre has the responsibilities for providing a whole-of-government conduit between Australian Government services, Indigenous communities and other stakeholders in this site.
- b. The Department continues to support improved outcomes in this site through its Bendigo Regional Office and through the range of programmes and services provided to Indigenous clients in the area. The Bendigo Regional Office works closely with the Indigenous Coordination Centre located in Melbourne. The Department will particularly provide leadership on employment and economic development initiatives in the area. For example, an Employment Forum was convened in Shepparton on 30 November 2005.