

**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 and Legislation

Question Number: W477-06

Question:

Senator Evans asked in writing:

Please list the dates of any visits made to the trial site by

- a. Minister
- b. Secretary of the Department

Please also specify the reason for the visit

Answer:

- a. Minister Abbott visited Shepparton trial site on 4 September 2003 for the Launch and signing of the Compact, whilst Minister Andrews visited various sites and functions on 11 December 2003.
- b. Secretary made the following visits to Shepparton:
 - Initial meeting held on 28-29 October 2002 to explain the COAG trial and invite Shepparton community members (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) to agree to participate;
 - Community Opportunities Workshop with Aboriginal community members to ask the community to formally accept the offer of the trial, on 21 February 2003;
 - Following the Community's formal acceptance, this meeting was held to explain the Trial to the wider Shepparton Aboriginal community on 4-5 June 2005;
 - Dr Boxall, and two other Commonwealth CEOs represented the Australian Government at this meeting which was also attended by several State Departmental Secretaries on 25-26 August 2003. This meeting reinforced the

commitment of both the Australian and Victorian governments to the Trial. The meeting also included final discussions regarding the Agreement that was to be signed on 4 September;

- Accompanied Minister Abbott to attend the signing ceremony of the Shared Responsibility Agreement (the Compact) on 4 September 2003. The Victorian Premier, Mr Steve Bracks signed the Compact on behalf of the State Government;
- Accompanied Minister Andrews on 10-11 December 2003. The City of Greater Shepparton Mayor, Ms Anne McCamish, hosted the Minister and the Shepparton Community Facilitation Group members' luncheon which introduced Minister Andrews to the COAG Trial;
- COAG Steering Group Meeting - met with the Shepparton Community Facilitation Group and the Shepparton City Council's new CEO, Mr Bob Laing, to review the progress of the COAG Trial on 8 April 2004. Mr Moran was in attendance; and
- Attended the Education and Training Employment Summit, which was a major initiative resulting from the work of the COAG trial on 24-25 November 2004.