

**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

Output 3.1.1: Working age policy and legislation

Question Number: W660-06

Question:

Senator Siewert asked in writing:

Relating to Budget related paper 1.9B of the Department of Human Services, Centrelink and HIC 2005-06:

In relation to the projected figures for the increased participation of mature aged people on page 86:

- (a) How have these figures been modelled and what assumptions do they make about increasing employment of those currently receiving pension payments?
- (b) Does this modelling take into account the relative proportion of mature aged people currently living in rural areas given variations in the relative likelihood of new jobs being created in these areas?
- (c) Does this modelling take into account the education and skill levels of mature aged people in the type of work likely to be available?
- (d) What are your projections for the numbers of new jobs being created that will be accessible by mature aged people given their education and skill levels, and what programs or schemes are in place to create these jobs?

Answer:

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) provided estimated numbers of people expected to be affected by the measure for Centrelink to use in estimating its departmental costs.

- (a) The figures have been modelled based on income support data for Newstart Allowance recipients aged 50 years or more and previous experience resulting from changes to reporting requirements. It does not include modelling of employment outcomes for people on pension payments as the measures only apply to job seekers on Newstart Allowance.
- (b) No. The figure reflects an average national estimate.
- (c) No.
- (d) The costing did not include projections of job creation. The Government considers that new jobs are created as a result of effective economic and labour market policies that help businesses grow and expand their workforce.