

**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: W661-06

Question:

Senator Siewert asked in writing:

In reference to Budget related paper 1.9B of the Department of Human Services, Centrelink and HIC 2005-06, page 86 for the *Long-term Unemployed*:

- (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 long-term unemployed 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 long term unemployed 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 long-term unemployed 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) DEWR's estimates make no assumptions on the impact on people currently on pension payments as only job seekers on Newstart or Youth Allowance are eligible for the Very Long Term Unemployed measure.

(b) No. The figure is based on 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.