

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

**2006-2007 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
2ND NOVEMBER 2006**

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: W819-07

Question:

Senator Crossin asked in writing:

Is it a fact that each individual at remote communities where RAEs are being removed is assessed by Centrelink before their exemption is removed to determine their capacity to participate? Bearing in mind how badly understaffed Centrelink is this is hard to believe but what does this really mean - their capacity to participate in what - a CDEP project or training? What about a person of 55 with limited education - how will they be assessed? At that age they would find it hard to get work anywhere in the mainstream job market since employers still seem to have a barrier to employing older people even if fairly well educated. So will this 55 year old Indigenous person have their RAE removed or will it still remain for some?

Answer:

In other areas of Australia, a person's work capacity is assessed before they are required to undertake activities. Similarly, where people have their RAE removed, their work capacity is also assessed. Where they are assessed as having sufficient capacity, they are required to enter into an activity agreement and participate in employment or employment-related activities, as happens for any job seeker living anywhere in Australia. The activities they are required to do depends on what is available in their community and their work capacity. Where people have little or no work capacity they may be assessed for Disability Support Pension.