

**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: W821-07

Question:

Senator Crossin asked in writing:

Is it true that Centrelink can now refuse to register a person for unemployment benefits if there is a CDEP in the area? (both Laynhapuy and Marthakal claim that this has happened - to 3 people at Laynhapuy and 1 at Marthakal). If this is so then what is that person or CDEP organisation supposed to do bearing in mind that a CDEP organisation has a fixed number of places in the short run and may well already have a waitlist. They cannot just take an additional participant on and create work for them. If it is true then how does it stand in relation to the Social Security Act?

Answer:

Centrelink cannot refuse to register a person but Centrelink can require a person claiming unemployment benefits to negotiate and commit to an activity agreement, which may include CDEP. When a person commences CDEP they are no longer eligible for unemployment benefits.

If a CDEP requires more places, negotiations occur between the organisation and DEWR based on historical use of places, potential impact of policy directions and expected employment outcomes. These negotiations are carried out on a case by case basis and take into account a wide variety of local situations. A person would not be expected to undertake CDEP if there were no places available.