

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2008-09 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome 7

DEEWR Question No. EW753_09

Senator Cash provided in writing.

Question

Why has the decision been made that highly disadvantaged job seekers who have been unemployed between 12-24 months will have to incur up to a 6 month wait before transitioning from their Job Network to their new Universal Services Provider?

Answer

The Government is committed to an orderly transition of job seekers to the new employment services. The timing of entry into the new services for this group reflects that they have already received a period of intensive servicing through Intensive Support Customised Assistance. As indicated in Section 2.14.3 on page 54 of the Request for Tender, Stream 4 job seekers directly approaching providers or Centrelink for assistance will be able to commence employment services immediately. Similar arrangements will be put in place for other transition job seekers, regardless of Stream, if they approach providers or Centrelink seeking early assistance.

In addition, as employment service providers are responsible for managing their caseloads, if they believe that they are able to commence job seekers earlier than what is outlined in the Request for Tender, they are able to do so. As indicated at Section 2.14 on page 54 of the Request for Tender for Employment Services, DEEWR will work with providers to provide regular updates and specific issues for consultation to inform the transition process.