

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

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

Outcome 4

DEEWR Question No EW801

Senator Mason asked on 22 October 2008, provided in writing.

Question

Productivity Places Phase 2

Regarding the commencement day, 1st July 2008, and the Department's failure to advise providers when 80% of the initial quota for job seeker places (22,000) has been met, which has resulted in providers advising job seekers that training places were available, only to subsequently have to re-advise them that these places are no longer open:

- . What system did the Department have in place to check the utilisation, and advise providers?
- . Why did they not advise providers?
- . At what stage did they become aware that the system was over subscribed?
- . What was the rationale behind the Department allocating 20,000 places for job seekers in the first three months of the program, then only 22,000 places for the remaining 6 months, when the Department itself went to great lengths to explain the slow uptake in the initial months of a program last time around?

Answer

- . The utilisation of the training places available through the program was monitored through the Department's program information management system.
- . Updates about the number of enrolments were provided through media releases.
- . It was apparent in August 2008 that the demand for places exceeded the number available. In response to this overwhelming demand the Government made an additional allocation of 15 000 certificate III places in September 2008 and a further 56 000 places in October 2008.
- . The number of places allocated by the Department was in accordance with the Government's election commitment and budgeted allocation.