

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

**Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0404\_11**

**Senator Abetz provided in writing.**

**Question**

**ASSESSMENTS FOR DISADVANTAGED JOB SEEKERS**

On the 11th May 2010, the then DPM announced in a media release that they would reform the assessments for disadvantaged job seekers. What are these proposed reforms, and how will they speed up the process for linking people with disabilities to financial support and what research supports this decision? The media release also states that DSP applicants will need to prove they have been unable to gain employment through an employment services provider, or through vocational rehabilitation services. Will this be in addition to them undertaking a Job Capacity Assessment and will Job Capacity Assessments continue to be undertaken?

**Answer**

From 1 July 2011, the assessment of job seekers will be conducted exclusively by Centrelink, with assistance from a second Australian Government service provider, CRS Australia. Wherever feasible, Centrelink and CRS Australia assessors will be co-located. This change will make the referral process less complex for disadvantaged job seekers who, under the current arrangements, may be referred from Centrelink to any one of the 17 other organisations that are contracted to deliver Job Capacity Assessment services.

The job seeker assessment process will be further streamlined to take better account of the individual's circumstances. People with disability, injury or ill-health will undergo detailed assessments, comparable to those under the current arrangements. Job seekers with barriers of a 'non-medical' nature, for example those at risk of homelessness and vulnerable young people, will undertake shorter more tailored assessments as appropriate to their needs.

Prior to 1 January 2012, Job Capacity Assessments for people making claims for the Disability Support Pension (DSP) will remain unchanged. Centrelink and CRS Australia will assess claimants using the same Job Capacity Assessment procedures that are currently in place.

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) has policy responsibility for the DSP.

Questions on the current and future assessment of eligibility for the DSP should be directed to FaHCSIA.