

**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.EW0407_11

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

CONCERNS RE: CURRENT DES CONTRACT

"Have any providers raised concerns about the funding model under the current DES contract? Can the Department provide a breakdown of percentages for each primary disability type of DES participants? How many Job in Jeopardy job seekers are on the DES caseload?"

Answer

'Have any providers raised concerns about the funding model under the current DES contract?'

Two concerns have been raised with the Department about the funding model under the current DES contract: the proportion of job seekers in a lower level of funding compared to the previous disability employment services model; and the change in policy to put more focus on paying outcomes for job seekers who are in continuous employment rather than over extended periods and in multiple placements.

The Department has assessed the operation of the Funding Level Tool under the Disability Employment Support Service to ensure it is working as intended and reflects industry and community expectations for stability and continuity of service for participants.

The policy intent is that job seekers are better serviced by being placed in ongoing jobs rather than multiple placements or single jobs with multiple breakover extended periods. Under DES, outcomes are paid over consecutive weeks, with flexibility for legitimate breaks in employment. This is a change from the previous arrangements where an employment outcome was payable for work that was not continuous and job seekers could be in multiple placements.

'Can the Department provide a breakdown of percentages for each primary disability type of DES participants?'

A breakdown of percentages by primary disability type for current DES participants as at 31 August 2010 is below:

Primary Disability Type	Participants
Acquired brain injury	1.8%

Autism	2.7%
Deaf blind	0.0%
Hearing	2.0%
Intellectual	6.2%
Neurological	3.3%
Physical	33.2%
Psychiatric	26.4%
Specific learning	5.7%
Speech	0.3%
Vision	1.5%
Not stated/Unknown	16.8%

'How many Job in Jeopardy job seekers are on the DES caseload?'

As at 31 August 2010, there were 556 Job in Jeopardy participants on the DES caseload.