

**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.EW0414_11

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

JOB CAPACITY ACCOUNT

During the Federal Election campaign, a media release (14th August) was released by the Deputy Prime Minister, and the Minister for Finance, announcing that a re-elected Gillard Government would remove the Job Capacity Account. How are you predicting savings of \$79.5 million by removing the Job Capacity Account? Surely this would then be an additional spend on the part of Job Services Australia providers, from the Employment Pathways Fund? What mechanism will Centrelink have to provide the services or support previously supplied from the Job Capacity Account?"

Answer

Cessation of the Job Capacity Account will remove the overlap and duplication with the Job Services Australia, Employment Pathway Fund (EPF). Job Services Australia providers can use the EPF to purchase the same types of assistance for eligible job seekers that are currently purchased by Job Capacity Assessment providers using the Job Capacity Account. Job Services Australia providers will use the EPF to provide eligible job seekers with the relevant services, recommended by Job Capacity assessment services.

From 1 January 2011, Job Capacity Assessors will identify individuals who may benefit from the short-term allied health interventions that are currently funded under the Job Capacity Account. As part of agreeing an Employment Pathway Plan with the job seeker, the Job Services Australia provider will make referrals to the relevant service, as appropriate to the individual's needs.

Job Capacity Account services are delivered by a range of allied health service providers including Centrelink. Job Services Australia providers can refer job seekers to any of these organisations.