

**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.EW0611_11

Senator Abetz asked on 20/10/2010, Hansard page 117.

Question

RELOCATION OF JOB SEEKERS, DIFFERENCE IN SCHEMES

Senator ABETZ—I recall Mr Abbott making a suggestion which was at the time criticised. Ms Paul, are you aware that the government committed to offering up to \$6,000 per job seeker to relocate or \$3,000 for those relocating to cities? Ms Paul—Yes. Senator ABETZ—How does that proposal differ from previous schemes? Ms Paul—I may need to take some of the precise differences on notice. Senator ABETZ—How does that proposal differ from previous schemes?

Answer

The proposed trial is offering assistance for up to 2,000 jobseekers over two years. To be eligible job seekers need to have been unemployed for at least 12 months, registered with Job Services Australia and reside in an area of unemployment higher than that of the national average. Relocation assistance will be managed by Job Services Australia and is available as a reimbursement for expenses in the following amounts:

- \$6,000 to move to a regional area
- \$3,000 to move to a metropolitan area
- \$3,000 for families with dependent children
- \$2,500 wage subsidy is available for participating employers.

The previous relocation pilots in 2006-07 and 2007-08, offered 130 places for relocation. These pilots were limited to job seekers in two employment services areas; Coffs Harbour and Shoalhaven in NSW, to assist them to take up employment in Western Australia. Eligibility to participate was open to registered job seekers living in these ESAs, who had been unemployed for four months or more. Amounts of up to \$5,000 were available for relocation expenses for each job seeker. Under these pilots there was no employer wage subsidy.