

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 4 - Employment

DEEWR Question No. EW0640_12

Senator Nash provided in writing.

Priority Employment Area Initiatives

Question

"DEEWR stated as part of the initiative, Keep Australia Working Jobs and Skills Expos were held in priority employment areas from October 2009 to December 2010. A total of 40 Expos were held with over 154,000 people attending and more than 15,500 (about 10pc) people connected with employment opportunities.

- Can the dept to elaborate what it means exactly by 'connected with employment opportunities' (does this mean they actually secured employment?).
- Also how much these expos cost, and if it considers the outcome in terms to be value for taxpayer money? "

Answer

'Connected with employment opportunities' refers to the number of job seekers who were offered employment or invited to follow-up interviews or training with exhibitors. These numbers are taken directly from exhibitors as surveyed by the Department of Human Services (then Centrelink) on the day of the expo.

DEEWR provided \$6.6 million to the Department of Human Services (then Centrelink) to run the expos from October 2009 to December 2010.

As well as being successful in terms of outcomes (that is, attendance by exhibitors and job seekers) and cost effectiveness (approximately \$43 per attendee), the expos have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from employers, local stakeholders, providers and other organisations involved in the day. The expos provide a focus for community effort and facilitate community 'buy in' to support employment and training measures in priority employment areas. On this basis, it is the department's view that the expos represent value for money.