

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

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

**Outcome 4 - Employment**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0700\_12**

**Senator Siewert provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Very long term unemployed people**

"Will jobseekers receive a payment specifically designed to defray the costs of participation in this activity? Are any measures proposed to assist those with above average travel costs (especially in rural areas) to cover those costs? How much discretion will providers exercise over the nature of the activity, and what range of activities are expected to be undertaken?"

**Answer**

- 1. Will job seekers receive a payment specifically designed to defray the costs of participation in this activity?**

A specifically designed payment to job seekers is not available. Job seekers participating in a 'group based' activity, including Work for the Dole, Green Corps, Drought Force or the Community Development Employment Program, may receive a \$20.80 supplement payment to assist with the cost of attending activities. This supplement will be available to job seekers who participate in these activities over the 11 months. In addition, Job Services Australia (JSA) providers may use the Employment Pathway Fund (EPF) to assist with costs associated with attending an activity.

- 2. Are any measures proposed to assist those with above average travel costs (especially in rural areas) to cover those costs?**

Job Services Australia (JSA) providers are able to use the EPF to assist job seekers with the costs of travel associated with attending an activity such as fares, petrol or hiring a bus and transferring multiple job seekers to an activity.

- 3. How much discretion will providers exercise over the nature of the activity, and what range of activities are expected to be undertaken?**

JSA providers are contracted to provide a range of activities for job seekers to build their skills and experience to improve their prospects for sustainable employment. The exact nature, length and type of activity is at the discretion of the JSA provider to suit job seeker needs and their individual requirements.

The range of Work Experience Activity choices available include: Work for the Dole, Drought Force and Green Corps activities; part-time study; part-time or casual paid employment; brokered unpaid work experience placements; voluntary work in the

community and not-for-profit sector; Defence Force Reserves; placement in other Government or state government labour market programs, including the Language, Literacy and Numeracy Program and Indigenous programs such as the Community Development and Employment Program, and participation in non-vocational programs and services (where appropriate).