

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Outcome 3 - Employment

DEEWR Question No. EW0553_13

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

Older Workers

The Department recently published a report from the National Seniors Productive Ageing Centre titled, *Barriers to Mature Age Employment: Final Report of the Consultative Forum on Mature Age Participation*. Please provide a timeline for responding to and implementing the recommendations in this report and details of any recommendations that are currently being implemented, or that the Department has begun planning to implement.

Answer

A number of the Forum's recommendations are being addressed through the Government's 2012-13 Budget (\$55 million over four years). The remaining recommendations have been provided to the new Panel on Positive Ageing for consideration as part of their work. The Advisory Panel commenced in July 2012 and will consult with communities and senior Australians on a range of policy issues and help drive the Government's ageing agenda, building on existing policies. The Treasury are providing secretariat support to the Advisory Panel.

The following recommendations are being implemented:

Recommendation (1) Reviewing legislation and legal frameworks

On 8 February 2012, the Attorney-General announced an inquiry into legal barriers to mature age persons participating in the workforce. The Australian Law Reform Commission will identify these barriers and consider reforms to address them in Commonwealth laws. The Commission is due to report by the end of March 2013.

Recommendation (2) Education and Communication

Recommendation (4) Corporate Champions Program

Recommendation (8) Promoting existing programs

Corporate Champions

As part of the 2012-13 Budget, the Government announced \$15.6 million to an ongoing Corporate Champions program, education seminars for employers, and communication activities to disseminate better practice in recruiting and retaining mature age people and to promote existing programs.

Recommendation (9) Stronger Support for mature age people not eligible for income support

Career Advice

The Experience+ Career Advice service commenced on 1 July 2010 and provides professional career counselling to mature age Australians aged 45 years and over, including those not eligible for income support. The service also provides a résumé appraisal service to help mature age people market themselves as effectively as possible to prospective employers.

The Experience+ Career Advice service has been extended beyond its original end date of 30 June 2014 to 30 June 2016.

Recommendation (20) Improving access to current training programs

Assistance - Training for Mature Age Workers

The Government is also assisting mature age workers and employers by providing assistance for training mature age workers.

From 1 July 2012, **Investing in Experience (Skills Recognition and Training)**, provided through the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE), will allow employers to access \$4400 for a skills assessment and training for all mature age workers (aged 50 years and over).

From 1 January 2013, \$35 million the **National Workforce Development Fund** will support up-skilling and re-skilling for people over 50. This is also provided through DIISRTE.

Further questions regarding these two programs should be provided to DIISRTE.