

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee

## BUDGET ESTIMATES – 27 May 2010 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

### Human Services Portfolio

**Topic:** Centrelink Jobs Expos

**Question reference number:** HS 49

**Senator:** FIFIELD

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 9 July 2010

**Number of pages:** 4

#### **Question:**

1. Whose decision was the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan Centrelink Expos?
2. What Jobs Expos has Centrelink previously held?
  - a. When were they?
3. There was a Centrelink Job Expo held on 15 April 2010 in Dandenong?
4. Were other Expos held around the country?
  - a. Please provide the dates and locations of all Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan Centrelink Expos.
5. Who funded the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan Centrelink Expos?
  - a. What was the cost of hosting each Expo by location?
6. How many people were written to regarding the Expos?
  - a. What was the criteria for determining the invitees?
7. Who prepared the material sent to invitees?
8. What information was provided to attendees at the Expos?
9. How many people have obtained employment as a result of attending the Expos?

#### **Answer:**

1. It was a recommendation in the Interdepartmental Committee Report "Keep Australia Working" publicly released in October 2009 and adopted by the Government.
2. 27 Centrelink Employment Expos were held across Australia during the period October 2006 to December 2007.
  - a) The table below shows the location and dates of Expos held from October 2006 to December 2007.

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
1	25 October 2006	Mount Isa
2	2 November 2006	Innisfail
3	16 November 2006	Albany
4	23 November 2006	Northam
5	30 November 2006	Port Augusta
6	8 March 2007	Kununurra
7	23 March 2007	Rockhampton
8	30 March 2007	Swan Hill
9	12 April 2007	Dubbo
10	3 May 2007	Geraldton
11	11 May 2007	Bunbury
12	17 May 2007	Kalgoorlie
13	25 May 2007	Broken Hill
14	1 June 2007	Townsville
15	7 June 2007	Wagga Wagga
16	15 June 2007	Moree
17	19 June 2007	Yirrkala
18	22 June 2007	Cairns
19	28 June 2007	Tamworth
20	31 October 2007	Whyalla
21	8 November 2007	Esperance
22	15 November 2007	Albany
23	20 November 2007	Nowra
24	22 November 2007	Kempsey
25	29 November 2007	Mount Isa
26	4 December 2007	Launceston
27	6 December 2007	Tweed Heads

3. Yes.

4. Yes.

- a) A schedule of Centrelink Jobs Expos for the 2009-10 financial year is outlined below.

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
1	14 October 2009	Launceston
2	23 October 2009	Liverpool
3	8 December 2009	Townsville
4	9 December 2009	Cairns
5	11 December 2009	Whittlesea
6	12 February 2010	Bankstown
7	19 February 2010	Elizabeth
8	19 March 2010	Lismore
9	25 March 2010	Wollongong
10	30 March 2010	Central Coast
11	15 April 2010	Dandenong
12	22 April 2010	Rockingham
13	29 April 2010	Port Macquarie
14	6 May 2010	Ballarat
15	14 May 2010	Shepparton
16	19 May 2010	Bundaberg

17	21 May 2010	Ipswich
18	28 May 2010	Gympie
19	4 June 2010	Sunshine Coast
20	10 June 2010	Penrith
21	25 June 2010	Cairns
22	29 June 2010	Maitland

5. The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) funded these Expos.

- a) A total of 22 Expos were planned for the 2009-10 financial year. Costs vary for each Expo depending on the location and suitability of local venues, transport costs and logistic requirements. Total direct costs for the 22 Expos conducted in the 2009-10 financial year are provided in the table below.

<b>Jobs Expo</b>	<b>Direct Costs</b>
Launceston	\$157,274
Liverpool	\$179,632
Townsville	\$129,471
Cairns	\$167,146
Whittlesea	\$212,112
Bankstown	\$174,872
Elizabeth	\$145,131
Lismore	\$132,809
Wollongong	\$173,876
Central Coast	\$139,854
Dandenong	\$180,138
Rockingham	\$185,399
Port Macquarie	\$142,056
Ballarat	\$162,112
Shepparton	\$181,209
Bundaberg	\$136,581
Ipswich	\$141,272
Gympie	\$127,649
Sunshine Coast	\$146,980
Penrith	\$185,666
Cairns	\$137,765
Maitland	\$248,801
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,587,805</b>

6. Invitations were issued to 381,399 customers<sup>1</sup> by the Minister for Human Services; 418 employers<sup>2</sup> were issued invitations by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, and Centrelink issued invitations to several thousand businesses and other organisations.

- a) The criteria for determining the invitees were:
- Centrelink customers who are in receipt of Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance ('active job seeker' category) and Disability Support Pension ('active job seeker' category) and Parenting Payment ('active job seeker' category), and

- employers who are generally regarded as the larger local employers in the region, as determined by the Local Employment Coordinator and DEEWR.

Notes:

- 1 Customers in the Cairns region would have received invitations for both Expos.
- 2 This figure does not distinguish between one-off invitations and invitations to larger employers such as banks and retailers who are invited to most of the Expos.
7. The material sent to invitees was prepared by DEEWR and Centrelink.
8. On arrival at Jobs Expos, job seekers are issued with a floor plan of the venue showing the location of exhibitors and the Jobs Board, which contains vacant positions. Exhibitors also hand out information about their organisations to job seekers.
9. As at 24 June 2010, advice from exhibitors indicates that approximately 8,000 job seekers have been placed in employment as a result of attending the Jobs Expos.