

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO COMMITTEE HEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**28 April 2009**

**Output Group:** 7 – Indigenous Australians

**Question No:**

**Topic:** CDEP and exit reasons

**Hansard Page:** CA20 – Inquiry into Family Assistance and other Legislation Amendment (2008 Budget and other Measures) Bill 2009 [provisions]

**Senator Siewert** asked:

When Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program participants leave the CDEP program where do they go?

**Answer:**

Exits from 1 July 2008 to 30 April 2009 are as follows (Please note these are the number of exits recorded from the CDEPManager system and are not necessarily the number of participants that have left the CDEP Program. For example Participants may exit and subsequently recommence the CDEP Program multiple times throughout the period reported):

<b>Group of Exit Reason</b>	<b>% of Exits</b>
Voluntary Departure	28.7%
Has not met participation requirements	20.0%
Found employment (full time and part time)	19.7%
Not compliant with JNM requirements	14.8%
CDEP Suspended/Terminated	6.0%
Sickness/incapacity	3.7%
Time Limited	3.6%
Other	3.0%
Bulk transfer to Income Support	0.3%
CDEP employee of the provider	0.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Please list all Branches/Offices/Consulted:

1. CDEP Program Management Branch

	<b>Action Officer:</b>	<b>Group Manager</b>
Name:	<b>Bernie Doman</b>	<b>Amanda Cattermole</b>
Position:	<b>Section Manager</b>	<b>Group Manager</b>
Branch/Group:	<b>CDEP Operations</b>	<b>Indigenous Remote Service Delivery</b>
Work phone number:	<b>6121 4310</b>	<b>6121 4008</b>
Mobile phone number:	<b>0419 032 746</b>	<b>0439 898 066</b>
<b>Cleared by Group Manager</b>	<b>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></b>	<b>Date:</b>
		<b>GM Initial</b>

**Senate Community Affairs Committee: Inquiry into Family Assistance and Other  
Legislation Amendment (2008 Budget and other Measures) Bill 2009 [provisions]**

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**28 April 2009**

**Output Group:** 7 – Indigenous Australians

**Question No:**

**Topic:** New CDEP program and approved leave

**Hansard Page:** CA21 – Inquiry into Family Assistance and other Legislation Amendment  
(2008 Budget and other Measures) Bill 2009 [provisions]

**Senator Siewert** asked:

Regarding the questions from NAAJA, I know we gave the first couple; I am not sure if we got the last few—about how approved leave will be defined and those things. Would you mind looking at those and answering them on notice? I think it would be easiest to have them in written form.

Questions from NAAJA were:

1. How will ‘approved leave’ be defined in the reformed Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program?
2. Will approved leave include leave without pay?
3. Will a decision that determines whether or not leave is ‘approved’ be open to review, and, if so, information on what the avenue for appeal will be?

**Answer:**

Continuing Participants are people who are already in the CDEP Program up to 30 June 2009. Continuing Participants will keep receiving CDEP wages as long as they remain eligible for CDEP Program and do not take a break of more than two consecutive weeks, other than approved paid leave.

Approved leave is determined by the CDEP Provider and must meet minimum requirements of all relevant legislation, awards and industrial instruments. As such the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) does not prescribe what a CDEP Provider interprets as approved leave.

New Participants (participants starting after 30 June 2009) will be in receipt of Income Support payments. Under Income Support, approved participation exemptions for sickness and cultural leave are provided for (as New Participants will be on income support rather than CDEP wages other types of leave more associated with an employment relationship are not available).

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Participants engaged in work experience services will be paid wages by the work experience employer and as a result will be subject to industrial instruments, awards and legislation under which they are employed with the work experience employer. As with Continuing Participants, FaHCSIA does not prescribe what a work experience provider interprets as approved leave.

Any disputes in relation to leave entitlements are a matter between the CDEP Provider and the Participant and any review provisions can be found in the appropriate Industrial Instruments and legislation.

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**Output Group:** 7 – Indigenous Australians

**Question No:**

**Topic:** New CDEP program and approved leave

**Hansard Page:** CA19 – Inquiry into Family Assistance and other Legislation Amendment  
(2008 Budget and other Measures) Bill 2009 [provisions]

**Senator Siewert** asked:

1. How many continuing participants will there be per jurisdiction (State) under the reformed Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program?
2. How many participants per jurisdiction (State) are ceasing in the locations where CDEP is no longer available?

**Answer:**

- There will be a capped total of 15,000 allocated places for the reformed CDEP.
- There are approximately 5,000 allocated places ceasing in locations where CDEP will no longer be available.
- There is an additional 2,000 allocated places which will be converted into jobs created from previously CDEP funded positions in government service delivery in remote areas.

	<b>Current 2008-09 Allocation</b>	<b>Proposed 2009-12 Allocation</b>	<b>Ceasing Allocation</b>
New South Wales	3,370	650	2720
Northern Territory	6,679	6,000	679 *
Queensland	5,141	2,820	2,321
South Australia	1,126	1,000	126
Tasmania	30	30	0
Victoria	90	0	90
Western Australia	5,574	4,500	1,074
<b>Program Total</b>	<b>22,010</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>7,010</b>

\* In the Northern Territory, the reduced numbers are a result of a reduction of allocated places based on utilisation of places in the 2008/09 financial year.

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- Of the 2,000 allocated places, 1,280 jobs will be created in Australian Government service delivery and approximately 720 jobs will be created in State Government service delivery (excluding the NT).
- The implementation of the Jobs Creation Package is being managed through a partnership between the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), with DEEWR being responsible for the measure.

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