

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Inquiry into the DEEWR Tender Process to award employment services contracts**

**EEWR\_SIH\_H74**

Senator Fifield asked on 11 June 2009, EEWR Hansard page 88.

**Question**

Can you also take on notice the number of organisations that were not told they were preferred tenderers in the first place that were subsequently offered?

**Answer**

Final decisions had not been made at the time of the advice to preferred tenderers on 16 March 2009.

Consistent with the 4.14 of the Request for Tender (RFT), this period gave preferred tenderers the opportunity to bring any issues, or other relevant matters, to the Department's attention. This was particularly critical where some organisations could have proposed to use the same subcontractor.

Also, around that time the release of the new unemployment figures provided a more detailed picture of the extent of the impact of Global Financial Crisis.

A final review was undertaken to ensure that the level of service available in those locations was consistent with the demand for the service, and that job seekers, would be well serviced into the future by providing new services that would deliver better, more tailored assistance to job seekers, particular disadvantaged Australians, and place greater emphasis on assisting employers in addressing skills shortages.

The department's final decision saw four organisations that were not initially identified as preferred tenderers that subsequently received an offer of Job Services Australia business and nine organisations who received business in additional Employment Service Areas.

Detailed consideration, assessment and quality assurance, all overseen by the probity adviser preceded the department's final decisions being made.