

**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\_H78**

Senator Siewart on 1 June 2009, EEWR Hansard page 92.

**Question**

The number of small organisations that are subcontracted?

**Answer**

As at 5 June 2009, the Department had approved sub contracting arrangements with 77 organisations not also contracted to deliver Stream Services in their own right or as part of a tendering group. Many of these are with community-based organisations.

The design of Job Services Australia and associated purchasing arrangements offered opportunities for local community based, specialist and Indigenous organisations to be part in the service delivery network. This was achieved through a number of mechanisms including increased flexibility in allowing organisations to form different types of tendering groups or sub contracting arrangements and operate in a manner which best suited their needs. The tender outcomes have seen more partnerships, alliances and subcontracting arrangements than were evident in past programs.

As well as through the [www.workplace.gov.au/espurchasing](http://www.workplace.gov.au/espurchasing) website, the Request for Tender document and information sessions presented by the Department, further support for potential tenderers, particularly for small organisations, was provided through the National Employment Services Association including:

- a dedicated website that provided a suite of information resources about the new employment services and included an online discussion forum to assist the promotion of linkages between potential tenderers,
- delivery of information sessions and promotion of the website to assist with the facilitate potential partnering arrangements, and
- providing help desk support to potential tenderers regarding partnerships.