

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

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into the DEEWR Tender Process to award employment service contracts

EEWR_SIH_W24

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

Was there a preference for innovative new strategies (as expressed by the Minister) over ones proven to work with disadvantaged jobseekers in local areas?

Answer

Innovation along with experience, expertise and achievements were central to the assessment process. All were taken into account in the assessment of tenders, for example, in section of 4.9.1 of the Request for Tender (RFT) Selection Criterion 1 covered experience, expertise, achievements and innovation in:

- delivering individualised employment services to a wide range of job seekers that lead to employment outcomes;
- assisting highly disadvantaged job seekers to overcome multiple vocational and non-vocational barriers and achieve sustainable outcomes; and
- assisting job seekers to gain relevant skills, work experience and appropriate training to address skills shortages and local labour market needs.

Accordingly, on a number of occasions, the former Minister for Employment Participation, the Hon Brendan O'Connor MP, indicated that innovation would be encouraged along with partnership, diversity and a focus on the most disadvantaged Australians. Clearly, while innovation was encouraged, it was one of a number of important considerations.