

**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_W58

Senator Humphries provided in writing.

Question

NESA referred to the 'counter-intuitive' results of the tender process meaning that regardless of the probity and meticulous care which characterised the process, there was a shortfall in the final outcome. Jobs Australia made a similar observation. How does DEEWR respond to this observation? Are there lessons to be learnt?

Answer

The Department does not believe that there was any "shortfall" in the final outcome of the tender process.

The tender was conducted consistent with the published Request for Tender (RFT).

Further, the RFT was designed to meet the policy objectives of the employment services reform and these objectives have been achieved.

The outcomes of the tender process are expected to deliver high quality services to all job seekers through Job Services Australia.

As would be normal practice with any large scale project and in line with previous major procurements, the Department will conduct a project implementation review of the employment services purchasing process following the transition.