

**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_W5

Senator Siewert asked on 11 June 2009, provided in writing.

Question

Global Recession - There is no discussion of how model might be adjusted to deal with changing circumstances – what processes are in place to address this?

Answer

The new employment services, which will commence on 1 July 2009, are demand driven, with no waiting lists for those who require assistance. This means that the model self-adjusts and the new services will be flexible enough to support all job seekers in the prevailing labour market conditions of the time.

Under Job Services Australia job seekers will receive assistance tailored to their individual needs and level of disadvantage. They will be provided with the training, work experience, skills development and other support needed to find and keep a job.

An Employment Pathway Fund (EPF) will enable providers to purchase a range of support for job seekers, specific to their needs. The amount of funding available in the EPF increases relative to a job seeker's level of disadvantage and can be used to purchase services such as counselling and rehabilitation as well as personal development, self-esteem and anger management courses. The EPF can also be used to fund wage subsidies, travel assistance and training courses.

The Government has also established a \$41 million Innovation Fund as part of Job Services Australia. This will support place based innovative projects that help the most disadvantaged overcome barriers to employment.

The Government has announced a Jobs and Training Compact with retrenched workers, including:

- \$298.5 million to allow immediate access to employment support under Stream 2;
- There are 20,000 training places through the Productivity Places Program specifically for retrenched workers; and
- Additional Language, Literacy and Numeracy Training places and Australian Apprenticeship Access Program Places.