

**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_W7

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

There is no mechanism to enable the 'value added' by not for profits that reinvest surpluses into other services for the same client group and offer wrap around services - why not?

Answer

Among other things, all tenderers (whether Not For Profit or For Profit) were required to demonstrate local strategies and linkages which will assist job seekers, including those who are highly disadvantaged, to overcome their barriers through flexible, individualised and tailored services to achieve sustainable outcomes. These were taken into account in assessment against the selection criteria in accordance with the Request For Tender (RFT).

In particular, the relevant selection criteria required responses on innovative service delivery approaches to support job seekers who are homeless or those at risk homelessness as well as the full range of job seekers - from those who are work ready to those who are highly disadvantaged (for example, Indigenous Australians, people from a Culturally And Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background and refugees) and who face multiple non-vocational barriers to employment.

In addition to Jobs Services Australia, the Jobs Fund, which is a core element of the Compact with Local Communities, will provide \$650 million over two years. This includes \$300 million for community projects that protect the environment, promote sustainability and build community infrastructure as well as \$200 million for projects to improve community facilities, build community capacity and create social enterprises.

These projects will encourage, local government, community organisations, employers and employment service providers to work together to provide employment or training opportunities in their local area.