

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2010-11 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 7

Question No: 197

Topic: Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program Work Experience and Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP) in Amoonguna.

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

It has been suggested to me that CDEP workers in Amoonguna were working on two projects simultaneously (renovations to community houses under the SIHIP Program and renovations to the 'old clinic' building to convert it into a community centre) and that workers are being assigned to one or other work project on a daily basis.

1. Can you confirm whether work on 'the old clinic' renovations is a CDEP Worker Employment Subsidy (CWES) project?
2. Can you confirm whether work on SIHIP renovations are a CWES project?
3. Are these two separate projects, or rather two parts of the one project?

Answer:

CDEP Work Experience Subsidy (CWES) is not a project, it is an employer subsidy paid to employers who offer work experience placements to CDEP participants who participate on the program while in receipt of Income Support. The CWES payment is administered by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and was not used in this instance.

In Amoonguna, some CDEP participants were undertaking renovations of the 'old clinic' as part of their CDEP program obligations. In addition to this CDEP requirement, some new CDEP participants (on Centrelink payments) also obtained part-time work under SIHIP. This seems to have led to some confusion among new participants that they were working full-time on SIHIP for their Centrelink payments given the similarities of the two projects. They were paid at award rates for all part-time hours worked under SIHIP.