

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 3 - Employment

DEEWR Question No. CA0003_14

Senator Payne provided in writing.

Question

Indigenous Employment Program

Is it correct that, following the consultation process on the IEP which concluded on 19 April 2013, the department has briefed the Minister and is looking to implement a new version of the IEP next financial year, ie from 1 July 2013? If so, when will details on any changes to the IEP be made available publicly, and when will IEP providers be advised?

If the new version of the IEP is due to start from 1 July 2013 and information on the new version is not yet available, how will this short timeframe give IEP providers and stakeholders adequate time to adjust to the new system?

Can the department confirm that the government placed a funding moratorium or grants pause on the IEP, commencing last year? What were the start and end dates for the moratorium or grants pause?

In an answer to a question on notice on the grants pause (CA0033_13), you said "Stakeholders with IEP applications for tailored assistance and for Indigenous Wage Subsidy, Indigenous Cadetship Support and CDEP Work Experience that were affected by the grants pause, were informed of the pause and advised their applications would be processed as soon as possible after the pause ended."

Over the moratorium or grants pause period, were any stakeholders with IEP applications for Indigenous Wage Subsidy, Indigenous Cadetship Support and CDEP Work Experience not affected by the grants pause, or did it apply to all stakeholders with such applications? If it did not apply to all stakeholders, why not, and how was the decision made about who was included and who was not?

What was the actual impact of the moratorium or grants pause?

Were some IEP contracts approved during the moratorium? If so, in what way was it actually a moratorium or grants pause at all?

Answer

On 13 June 2013, the Minister for Indigenous Employment and Economic Participation announced a new application and assessment processes for the IEP to commence from 1 July 2013.

IEP panel members and current contract holders were notified of the changes by email on Friday, 14 June 2013.

The first application period under the new IEP process closes on 9 August 2013, 8 weeks from the date that the new processes were announced.

There was a short pause from 27 August to 22 October 2012 on all Australian Government grant funding rounds to allow the Government to examine all grant spending and to provide ongoing scope for monetary policy to respond to economic developments.

No applications for Indigenous Wage Subsidy, Indigenous Cadetship Support and CDEP Work Experience were approved during the pause period. Payments on current contracts continued as these were not affected by the pause and contracts approved before the pause were allowed to commence at the nominated time.

The grants pause did not result in any project application being rejected.