

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 9

Question No: 71

Topic: Moderate Disability Learning Pilot

Hansard Page: 21/11/2013 CA88

Senator Moore asked:

Can you provide information about the moderate disability learning pilot and how those learnings are being translated into the process.

Answer:

The Moderate Intellectual Disability Loading (MIDL) pilot took place between 1 July 2010 and 30 June 2013 as part of the Disability Employment Services (DES) programme. The aim of the MIDL pilot was to test the impact of a loading payable to DES providers on selected service fees and on Job Placement and Outcome Fees for assisting job seekers with a moderate intellectual disability to obtain employment in the open labour market. During the trial period, 761 participants benefitted from the programme with a paid job placement or employment outcome.

A review of the pilot found that MIDL participants recorded significantly higher outcome rates than DES participants with intellectual disability overall, despite having higher support needs. To further strengthen the outcomes focus, the review recommended removing the loading payable to DES providers on service fees while retaining the loading on Job Placement and Outcome Fees.

Since 1 July 2013, the initiative became a permanent feature of the DES programme. DES providers can claim an 88 per cent loading on Job Placement and Outcome Fees paid for supporting participants with a moderate intellectual disability to remain in a job that lasts 13 or 26 weeks and where employment is for at least 15 hours per week.