

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2009-2010**

**Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy**

**DEEWR Question No.EW1048\_10**

**Senator Cameron asked on 10/02/2010, Hansard page 130.**

**Question**

***DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT NETWORK AND VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION  
SERVICES***

Senator CORMANN—Given the change on 1 March, I would have thought you would have an expectation of how many people are going to be added to the 36,000.

Mr Waslin—We have an expectation of how many people might join the program over the remaining months of the financial year, but because it is uncapped it is often subject to how the provider network will deal with the client base.

Senator CORMANN—The reason I am not understanding this is that, presumably, if something has been cut for a period of time, there will be people approaching service providers who have to be told, 'Sorry—no more places available.' I assume that somebody captures that data. I am trying to quantify what is—

Mr Griew—We may take that on notice. What the officer has just told me is that all he would have is some modelling that was done in the process of the designing of the program. We will take that on notice and see what we can provide you with.

**Answer**

Some services for people with disability with part time participation requirements under the previous Disability Employment Network (DEN) program or Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) were uncapped. As such, there was no unmet need for these components.

There is no reliable measure of unmet demand for the capped elements of either DEN or VRS. There are, however, several data sources used to inform potential need.

- For the VRS capped program, when a place was unavailable for a job seeker they may be placed on a waitlist. As at 12 January 2010, there were 1555 job seekers on the VRS waitlist.
  
- For the DEN capped program, there was no list kept of job seekers that were unable to get into the program.