

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2005-2006 BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
30, 31 MAY and 3 JUNE 2005**

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 3: Increased Workforce Participation

Output Group 3.2: Labour Market Strategies

Outputs 3.2.3: CDEP Management

Question Number: W127-06

Question:

Senator Carr provided in writing:

A significant number of submissions in response to the CDEP discussion paper (including some from Work for the Dole providers) stated that CDEP providers are under-resourced in comparison with Work for the Dole providers, especially given that CDEP is expected to provide additional support to participants in comparison with Work for the Dole. What is the Government's response to these statements?

Answer:

CDEP and Work for the Dole (WfD) are similar in some ways but quite different in others.

- Participants in WfD are on unemployment benefits while CDEP pays wages to participants. Some of these employees are then able to supervise activities – WfD participants cannot be used as supervisors.
- CDEP organisations also generate income from some of their activities and, generally, WfD cannot generate income. Any extra income earned by CDEP organisations is used to operate CDEP activities.
- WfD providers undertake participation reporting to Centrelink on participants' attendance. WfD providers also administer Training Credits and Community Work. CDEP has lesser requirements.
- WfD activities run for six months and participants will often undertake a range of different activities in each six month period. The turnover of participants due to employment and participation in education means participant costs (including equipment such as safety boots and hard hats) are higher for WfD than CDEP. In addition, some WfD participant costs will be double those for CDEP which runs activities for twelve months.

Under changes implemented for CDEP from 1 July 2005, individually negotiated management and activity fees have been established for CDEP organisations.