

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

**2005-2006 BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
JUNE 2005**

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 1: Efficient and effective labour market assistance

Output Group: 1.2 Labour Market Programme and Delivery

Output: 1.2.2 Employment Services

Question Number: W179-06

Question:

Senator Wong provided in writing:

What restrictions or guidelines currently apply to the use of the Job Seeker Account?
Please provide copies of all documents sent to providers since October 2004 detailing these restrictions or guidelines, and please indicate what alterations have been made to these guidelines.

Answer:

Since its introduction in July 2003, Job Network members have been required to administer the Job Seeker Account in accordance with the Employment Services Contract 2003-2006, and expenditure principles which guide Job Network members in making decisions about appropriate purchases. The Contract prescribes the use of the Job Seeker Account including purchases which will not be reimbursed.

The Department regularly provides operational advice to Job Network members, as required, in relation to the use of the Job Seeker Account. This advice often relates to specific individual cases and has occurred in a range of formats. It is not possible to provide copies of all advices as it would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Updated and consolidated advice on Job Seeker Account principles and items which will not be reimbursed from the Job Seeker Account was provided to Job Network members on 30 March 2005. This advice did not change the basic principles underpinning the Job Seeker Account. It ensured that Job Seeker Account use continues to withstand rigorous public scrutiny, is directly related to employment, and represents value for money for the Commonwealth. A copy of this advice is at **Appendix A**.

Further clarification was provided to JNMs in a letter from Ms Golightly dated 27 April 2005, following feedback from Job Network members regarding travel assistance. An extract of Ms Golightly's letter relating to the Job Seeker Account was provided in response to **2005-2006 Budget Senate Estimates Hearing, Question W060-06**. A copy of the guidance referred to in that extract is at **Appendix B**.