

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10**

**Outcome:** 4

**DEEWR Question No. EW0149\_10**

Senator **Payne** provided in writing.

**Question**

*Australian Employment Covenant*

What role does DEEWR play in the AEC initiative? Do other departments or agencies have a role?

**Answer**

The role of DEEWR

The Australian Government has established the capacity to contribute to the effective operation of the Australian Employment Covenant (AEC) initiative in four critical areas, as agreed under the terms of the Covenant:

- Facilitating and coordinating training for eligible Indigenous Australians to the appropriate job standards of the employing industry;
- Facilitating referral, placement and support processes involving the take-up of AEC jobs by eligible Indigenous job seekers;
- Facilitating post-placement and mentor support for eligible Indigenous Australians through Job Services Australia, the Indigenous Employment Program and the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program; and
- Recording and tracking of AEC jobs and the placement and retention of Indigenous job seekers into AEC jobs and training (where the information is recorded within the Australian Government's IT systems).

DEEWR, has also provided the following resources directly to the Australian Employment Covenant Executive:

- start up funding of \$725,000;
- the establishment of a long term funding model based on the achievement of outcomes (up to \$20.2 million available);
- ongoing advice and support from the department; and
- secondments of departmental staff in most states and territories.

### The role of other agencies

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) has the key responsibility for all of the service delivery aspects listed above other than the support provided through the CDEP program, which is provided through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

Centrelink are also able to assist in the referral of their non-employed Indigenous clients (not necessarily job seekers) to AEC jobs via a local employment service provider.

All Australian Government departments and agencies have a role in identifying opportunities for Indigenous employment that arise through their normal business, increasing the potential of the AEC initiative to achieve outcomes.