

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

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

Outcome **4**
DEEWR Question No. **EW501_10**

Senator Cash provided in writing.

Question

Disability Employment Network

What has been the average duration of unemployment for each of the 4 Disability Maintenance Instrument caseloads? Has any research been undertaken to ascertain whether people with certain primary disabilities have greater requirement for support? If not, why not?

Answer

Information regarding the average duration of unemployment for Disability Employment Network (DEN) participants is not readily available from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations' data because job seekers accessing DEN do not have to be receiving income support to qualify for assistance. Although such information is routinely captured for Newstart and Youth Allowance recipients, these job seekers comprise less than 25 per cent of DEN capped job seekers, so any analysis would not be representative.

Further, the maintenance phase of the DEN capped stream assists participants who have achieved an employment outcome or who entered assistance with their employment in jeopardy. By definition, participants in the maintenance phase are either currently or recently employed.

In December 2007, the Department released the *Disability Employment Network Case Based Funding Model Evaluation Report*. This report contained an analysis of both the time taken to achieve outcomes (p. 23) and the average duration in maintenance before exiting the DEN program as an independent worker (p. 45–46).