SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009-10

Outcome **4**

DEEWR Question No. **EW539_10**

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

DEWR Trial of Re-location of unemployed people to take up employment opportunities

Have the trials undertaken by the previous Government into a pilot trial of relocation of income support recipients been evaluated and what details can be made available about this scheme, its use, its effectiveness, and support amongst recipients, and any plans for future work on this issue?

Answer

- Under the previous government, the Department conducted two relocation trials to test a model for the relocation of job seekers from identified areas with high unemployment (South and North Coast NSW) to areas with strong demand for labour (Perth, Western Australia). The trials provided $5000 per job seeker in addition to Job Seeker Account (JSKA) payments to assist with relocation costs.

- While no evaluation report was published, the first of the relocation trials was assessed by the Department. The key findings were:
  - Take up of relocation assistance by job seekers was low (only two thirds of available trial places were filled). Job seekers who took up relocation assistance were typically single males aged 18 to 25 years.
  - The trials had a high unit cost (for each job seeker relocated) and involved considerable administrative complexity when compared to relocation assistance provided using the Job Seeker Account (JSKA). The unit cost of relocating job seekers in the trial was approximately ten times that of relocating a similar group of job seekers through JSKA assistance while outcomes were comparable.

- Assistance with relocation can be supported through the Employment Pathways Fund managed by Job Services Australia providers.