

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014

Outcome 3 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM0046_14

Senator Cameron provided in writing.

Question

Impact of the Job Commitment Bonus and Relocation Assistance to Take Up a Job election commitments on wage subsidies

Prior to the election the Coalition promised: • \$2,500 job commitment bonus for young Australians 18-30 who have been unemployed for 12 months or more if they remain in a job and off welfare for a continuous period of 12 months; • Further Job Commitment Bonus of \$4,000 if they remain in a job and off welfare for a continuous period of 24 months, and • Relocation Assistance to take up a job - \$6,000 for long term unemployed jobseekers (who have been on Newstart for more than 12 months) if they move to a regional area to take up a job, or \$3,000 if they move to a metropolitan area. 1. Are these wage subsidies in addition to, or instead of, the previous government's budgeted wage subsidy commitments; which include: a. Wage Connect b. Disability Employment Services (DES) financial assistance c. Employment Pathways Fund d. Indigenous Wage Subsidy e. Structured Training and Employment Projects (STEP) f. Workplace English Language and Literacy (WELL) g. Supported Wage System (SWS) 2. Which, if any, of the previous government's budgeted wage subsidies will the Coalition be keeping and which will they be discontinuing?

Answer

1. The Job Commitment Bonus and the Relocation Assistance to Take Up a Job programme are not wage subsidies. These programmes are separate to the previous government's budgeted wage subsidy commitments.
2. In relation to the programmes outlined in the question, the Department of Employment only has responsibility for Wage Connect and the Employment Pathway Fund. No decisions have been made to change these programmes at this point in time.

The Department of Social Services has responsibility for the Disability Employment Services financial assistance and the Supported Wage System. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has responsibility for the Indigenous Wage Subsidy and the Structured Training and Employment Projects programme and the Department of Industry has responsibility for the Workplace English Language and Literacy program.