

## Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2012-2013

#### Outcome 3 – Employment

DEEWR Question No. CA0006\_13

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

#### Question

##### Remote Jobs and Communities Program

Are Centrelink recipients working under the "new" CDEP scheme covered by the Fair Work Act, Superannuation legislation or Workers Compensation legislation. If no, will these exclusions from Australia's major industrial instruments also apply to Centrelink recipients completing "activities" under the Remote Jobs and Communities Program?

#### Answer

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations consulted with the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) in the preparation of this response. FaHCSIA is the agency responsible for the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program and the payment of CDEP wages to eligible participants.

Reforms to the CDEP program commenced on 1 July 2009. As part of the reforms, people who were participating in the CDEP program prior to 30 June 2009 may retain their CDEP wage entitlement status. These CDEP participants (also known as 'continuing' participants) are paid CDEP wages by their CDEP provider.

'New' CDEP participants are those people who commenced in CDEP from 1 July 2009 and are not eligible for CDEP wages or, if eligible for CDEP wages, have chosen not to receive CDEP wages. The majority of new CDEP participants are in receipt of an income support payment which has participation requirements and are participating in CDEP as a compulsory activity under their Employment Pathway Plan.

Income support recipients (including those 'new' CDEP participants) participating in an activity are not entitled to remuneration. Therefore the *Fair Work Act 2009*, superannuation and workers' compensation arrangements do not apply. New CDEP participants are covered by the same insurance arrangements that are in place for specified Job Services Australia work experience activities. Similar arrangements are expected to apply to participants in Remote Jobs and Communities Program activities.