

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 3 - Tertiary, Skills, International and Indigenous Strategy

DEEWR Question No. CA0011_12

Senator Payne provided in writing.

Refers to previous DEEWR Question No CA0006-12

Question

Community Development Employment Projects and Indigenous Employment Programs

The answer to CA0006-12 provided information on CDEP participants commencing training or employment places under the IEP. I note that there were 1,083 26-week outcomes and 640 26-week outcomes, out of 1,668 employment commencements. Do you have any information as to why these 'drop-out' rates are quite high? Is it due to data lag, a lack of information or are around 40% of participants actually dropping out within each 3 month bracket? Can I please have an update of these figures as well?

Answer

A significant factor affecting the number of 13 and 26 week outcomes reported is the data lag. Many contract holders only submit invoices periodically or wait until all of their participants have completed their placements, not immediately after a participant achieves a milestone. The department's database can only be updated after these claims have been processed. Updated data for the same cohort (the 1 668 commencements referred to in CA0006-12) shows an increase in the number of 13 and 26 week outcomes achieved. It should also be noted that a participant who started work on the last day of that collection period will not reach the 26 week milestone until 20 December 2011.

Data as at:	Commencements	13 Week Outcomes	26 Week Outcomes
21 June 2011	1,668	1,083	640
19 November 2011	1,668	1,164	759

* 13 and 26 week milestones are recorded against the year in which the commencement occurred