

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Outcome 1 – Early Childhood, Working Age and Indigenous Participation

DEEWR Question No. CA0028_13

Senator Payne asked on 19 October 2012, Hansard page 55

Question

Number of contracts with IEP providers on pause

Senator PAYNE: Thank you. Do you know how many employers are affected by the pause? Ms J Taylor: No, I do not. Senator PAYNE: In the evaluation process for the IEP that Ms Wood referred to, has that put any contracts with IEP providers on a similar sort of pause? Ms Wood: Not related to the evaluation, but the pause that has been applied would apply to contracts not just with employers but also with some other organisations. Senator PAYNE: How many of those contracts are on pause in relation to that? Ms Wood: I do not have a figure on that. We always have a range of projects at different stages of development. We do have a picture of all the project proposals that have been received by the department, and they will be at different stages. Some of them will not be at a point where they would nearly be ready to contract, so we do not have a figure of those directly affected by the pause. Senator PAYNE: Is it possible to obtain one? Ms J Taylor: We will take that on notice and see if we can. It may be a bit difficult, as Ms Wood said, to identify those that would have gone forward, but we will take that on notice and see if we can provide that.

Answer

The Indigenous Employment Program (IEP) funds a mix of grants and services-based contracts.

Under the IEP, the pause affected the processing of grants based projects under the Tailored Assistance element of the IEP, and Indigenous Wage Subsidy and Indigenous Cadetship Support applications.

It is not possible to identify which grants based Tailored Assistance projects were affected by the grants pause alone, as there are a number of factors that could delay the processing of an IEP Tailored Assistance project. Other factors could include considerations concerning value for money, waiting on requests for further information about the project, whether the project meets IEP priorities and the previous performance of the provider.

269 Indigenous Wage Subsidy and 8 Indigenous Cadetship Support applications were affected by the pause. Within twenty four hours of the grants pause ceasing processing of these applications recommenced.