

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-004082

Senator Marshall asked on 29 May 2017 on proof Hansard page 70

Question

Career transition assistance program

Senator MARSHALL: Apart from other departments, what was the feedback from the people that you consulted outside of that?

Ms Jensen: Another input has been from the Age Discrimination Commissioner the inquiry, the Willing to Work inquiry, which found that older Australians face significant barriers to employment, including a lack of training opportunities. We have built on inputs such as that report and earlier input from stakeholders around the barriers that mature-age workers face.

Senator MARSHALL: Can you provide the feedback from the stakeholders to the committee?

Ms Jensen: We can certainly take that on notice and look back at some of the earlier interactions and provide you with a summary.

Answer

The Department of Employment has longstanding relationships with stakeholders such as:

- National Seniors Australia (NSA);
- Council on the Ageing (COTA);
- Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI);
- Business Council of Australia (BCA);
- Australian Industry Group (AIG); and
- the Australian Human Rights Commission.

All of these organisations were represented on the Consultative Forum on Mature Age Participation (the Forum) at CEO level (and by the then Age Discrimination Commissioner, the Hon Susan Ryan AO).

The Forum identified the mismatch of older workers' skills and experience with industry demands as a significant barrier to employment, and several recommendations of the 2012 final report were aimed at improving access to career advice and training opportunities.

The Department funded and facilitated the work of the Forum and the publication of the Final report and recommendations (available at: nationalseniors.com.au/be-informed/research/publications/barriers-mature-age-participation). The Department also funded the first national survey on the barriers to employment for mature age people, undertaken by the National Seniors Australia Productive Ageing Centre (available at: nationalseniors.com.au/be-informed/research/publications/barriers-mature-age-employment-final), and publications which have drawn on the survey data.