

## **Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018**

#### **Outcome 1 - Employment**

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-004289**

**Senator Marshall provided in writing.**

#### **Question**

##### **National Work Experience program expansion**

Why would the government expand a program that hasn't been fully evaluated, or had a review published for the public to scrutinise?

#### **Answer**

Unpaid work experience is a longstanding feature of employment services and has been consistently effective in assisting job seekers into paid employment and off income support.

Work experience is a valuable way for a job seeker to understand what a particular occupation or workplace is like and helps a business to determine whether someone will be the right fit. It can benefit a wide range of job seekers, including mature age and people with disability, giving them opportunity and confidence.

Through a short-term placement under the National Work Experience Programme (NWEPP), a job seeker is able to demonstrate their skills and how they would suit the host business.

NWEPP is very effective at leading to employment. Administrative data shows that, from the start of NWEPP on 1 October 2015 to 31 March 2017, 51 per cent of participants placed by jobactive providers were in work within three months of commencing in NWEPP.

Feedback from businesses and employment services providers about the costs involved with hosting and arranging work experience placements helped inform the changes to NWEPP announced in the 2017–18 Budget.