

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM1543_15

Senator Rice provided in writing.

Question

CALD Youth

The first CALD youth census released this year by the Multicultural Youth Action Network shows that CALD youth are strongly represented – above average in fact - in post Year 12 education and training; yet they are hugely over-represented in unemployment statistics. The Migrant Resource Centre (South) in Hobart tells us that CALD youth unemployment in Greater Hobart is nearly 70% compared to around 20% for non-CALD youth in the same city. Surely this demonstrates that employment services are failing young people from CALD backgrounds? What steps are you taking to address this?

Answer

Job Services Australia, the Government's current mainstream employment services, is achieving positive outcomes for young job seekers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

As at 31 August 2014, there were 32,189 job seekers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who were under the age of 30 years (4.1 per cent of the total caseload).

Between 1 July 2009 and 31 August 2014, Job Services Australia's achievement for job seekers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who were under the age of 30 years included:

- 83,576 job placements (4.1 per cent of all job placements)
- 36,809 13-week outcomes (4.4 per cent of all 13-week outcomes), and
- 21,466 26-week outcome (4.1 per cent of all 26-week outcomes).

The new employment services model to begin on 1 July 2015 includes significant reforms to services provided to job seekers, including those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, to better meet the needs of employers and improve employment outcomes.

Features include:

- three employment service streams with funding directed to those job seekers who need the most support to find and keep a job. Job seekers will have access to targeted training and assistance to help them become work ready
- less prescription for providers, with payments structured to promote stronger performance and the achievement of employment outcomes

- job seekers remaining active and engaged while they are looking for work, with most job seekers aged under 30 years undertaking Work for the Dole for 25 hours per week for six months each year
- wage subsidies which will encourage employers to hire, train and retain eligible job seekers who are young, mature age, Indigenous and long term unemployed.

All employment providers will be expected to deliver services to the full range of job seekers in the region, tailoring the assistance based on the needs of the individual job seeker and with specialised approaches in locations with significant numbers of people from particular client groups, such as job seekers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Through the Request for Tender for Employment Services 2015-2020, preference in the selection of providers for the new services will be given to tenderers that demonstrate ability and clear strategies (such as formal links or subcontracting/partnering arrangements with specialist organisations) to deliver quality service and achieve employment outcomes for specific client groups. Larger entities were able to consider partnering with organisations that deliver services to specific client groups, and organisations interested in providing services only to particular client groups were encouraged to consider group tendering arrangements or becoming subcontractors if they did not wish to bid in their own right. The outcomes of the Request for Tender are expected to be announced in late March 2015.