

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM1625_15

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Question

Restart - analysis

What analysis was done that showed this subsidy would be successful? What contact did the Government have with business groups and peak industry bodies before deciding on this policy? What, if any, business groups and/or peak industry bodies requested this subsidy? What feedback has the Government/Department received from providers, employers, employees and other stakeholders in relation to this program?

Answer

To help overcome the higher rates of labour market disadvantage faced by older job seekers, the government announced the introduction of a Seniors Employment Incentive Payment (SEIP) from 1 July 2014 to encourage employers take on mature job seekers aged 50 or over. This was announced in MYEFO 2013-14 and was described in the Coalition's election policies in 2010 and 2013.

Restart replaced the SEIP and increased the assistance available to employers to up to \$10,000 (GST inclusive) when they employ mature age workers.

The Department consulted with the Business Council of Australia, Recruitment and Consulting Services Association, Mercy Health (Corporate Champions large private employer), Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Australian Industry Group, and Council on the Ageing. These discussions were regarding the Seniors Employment Incentive Payment wage subsidy which was replaced by Restart.

The Department has received positive feedback about the Restart programme from job seekers, employers, industry groups and peak bodies, as well as the Hon Susan Ryan, Age Discrimination Commissioner. There have also been several positive media articles about the benefits of Restart.