

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

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

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM1631_15

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Question

Wage Connect

The Request for Tender for Employment Services 2015-2020 does not mention the Wage Connect subsidy although it did list other wage subsidies payable to both employers and employees. Has the Government cut the Wage Connect subsidy permanently? If yes – Why – given it was so popular it always reached its budgeted placements? What consultations/analysis was undertaken before making the decision to cut Wage Connect? Where will the funding saved from cutting Wage Connect be redistributed to? Is the Government planning to cut other wage subsidy programs? If so, which ones? If no – Why is Wage Connect not mentioned in the Release for Tender document?

Answer

Wage Connect is part of the Job Services Australia programme which is being replaced by the 2015 Employment Services model. New wage subsidy arrangements will apply from 1 July 2015.