

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

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

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

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000408**

**Senator Siewert provided in writing.**

#### **Question**

##### **Work for the Dole - protective equipment for participants**

Are people undertaking 'work for the dole' provided with adequate protective gear? What requirements are there for basic protection like long pants, long sleeves, sunscreen, sunglasses and hats for those working outside?

#### **Answer**

The jobactive Deed 2015–2020 – Work for the Dole Coordinator (Schedule 1 clauses B.3.6 and B.3.6(m)) and jobactive Deed 2015–2020 (clause 110) ('the Deeds') requires a risk assessment to be conducted for each Work for the Dole activity by either the Work for the Dole Coordinator or jobactive provider (who ever sources the activity). The risk assessment must, among other things, identify if any specific personal protection equipment and clothing is required to participate safely in the activity and if this material will be provided by the Host Organisation or will need to be arranged by the Provider.

In situations where it is assessed that there may be a risk of exposure when working outdoors the provider is required to take appropriate measures, including ensuring necessary equipment is provided, to address this risk.

The Deeds (Schedule 1 clause B.3.7 – Work for the Dole Coordinator and 110.4 – jobactive provider) require that risk assessments be conducted by a 'Competent Person' as defined in the Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011.

Work for the Dole Fees can be used to pay for personal protection equipment and clothing required to participate in the Work for the Dole activity.