

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Additional Estimates 24-28 February 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** CDEP/RJCP

**Senator:** Senator Rachel Siewert

**Question reference number:** 141

**Type of Question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 11 April 2014

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

1. CDEP and RJCP workers are not entitled to claim workers compensation benefits. They are insured as “participants” under Department of Employment insurance policies against death and accidental bodily injury.

a. Are injured workers advised that they are able to claim under DEEWR’s insurance policies?

b. If not, what has DEEWR done to identify workers with potential claims under the insurance arrangements in place and their ability to claim compensation for any injuries suffered?

c. What has DEEWR done to communicate the insurance arrangements to CDEP/RJCP participants and employers?

d. What will DEEWR do to communicate the insurance arrangements to CDEP/RJCP participants and employers?

**Answer:**

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet does not insure Remote Jobs and Communities Programme (RJCP) job seekers, including Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) participants and RJCP community volunteers. This is the contractual responsibility of RJCP providers.

Under the RJCP, providers are required to purchase and maintain personal accident insurance for job seekers, including CDEP participants and community volunteers, so they are insured while they are on the provider’s premises and while they are undertaking RJCP related employment and participation activities.

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In the case of CDEP participants, RJCP providers are also required to purchase and maintain workers' compensation insurance.

During their initial interview with RJCP job seekers, providers are required to explain the service and assistance they will receive and to provide the job seeker with a copy of the RJCP Service Guarantee.