

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2007-08 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome **7**

DEEWR Question No. EW140_08

Senator Coonan provided in writing.

Question

CRS- Waiting Lists for Vocational Rehabilitation

What are the current requirements for clients being referred to vocational rehabilitation services?

Answer

Eligibility

A job seeker can be referred to Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) if they:

- are aged 14 to less than 65 years
- are an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- have a disability that:
 - is attributable to an intellectual, psychiatric, sensory or physical impairment or combination of these impairments, or
 - results in a substantially reduced capacity for them to obtain or retain unsupported paid employment, or to live independently.

The job seeker is assessed as being able to work independently in the workplace with less than six months support (if more than six months, they may be referred to the Disability Employment Network).

Job Capacity Assessors assess and refer eligible job seekers to VRS.

VRS also provides assistance for job seekers who are employed but who are at risk of losing their job because of work problems related to their disability, injury or health condition. A person seeking Job in Jeopardy assistance to help retain their job, will direct register with a VRS provider, rather than being referred by Centrelink or a Job Capacity Assessment provider.