

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2008-09**

Outcome/Agency **8**

DEEWR Question No. EW1018_09

Senator Bernardi provided in writing.

Question

National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy

1. Why did the Government fail to keep its promise regarding the deadline of the Strategy?
Why was the deadline pushed back?

Answer

The Government has already put in place a number of significant initiatives affecting people with disability. These initiatives are outlined in the paper, *Setting the Direction*, released on 22 December 2008, and include:

- the announcement of a new model for disability employment services to commence on 1 March 2010, including the uncapping of places;
- training places under the Productivity Places Program (over five years);
- removing disincentives to employment – people on the Disability Support Pension (DSP) are now able to volunteer for employment assistance without having their eligibility for DSP reviewed, thereby removing a disincentive for people to work; and
- the creation of 750 new places in Australian Disability Enterprises – which provide supported employment for people with disability.