

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2009-2010**

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW0830_10

Senator Cash provided in writing.

Question

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Eligible people with disability, injury or health condition

3) In the Minister's letter dated 9 December 2009 the Minister states that 'All eligible people with disability, injury or health condition will have immediate access to individually tailored employment services better suited to their needs.' a) What does the Minister intend the word "eligible" under the new Disability Employment Services to mean? b) Please explain the differences, if any, between eligibility under the New Disability Employment Services and the former Disability Employment Network? c) What does the Minister intend the words "immediate access to mean?" Please quantify in specific time periods what is meant by "immediate access"?

Answer

a) and b) The *Disability Services Act 1986* provides the legislative framework for both the new Disability Employment Services and the previous Disability Employment Network and Vocational Rehabilitation Services. The Act sets out the basic eligibility criteria for both the new and previous arrangements as detailed below. Eligibility provisions outlined in the Act have not changed.

Part II-Funding of services for persons with disabilities

8 Target group

- (1) *The target group for the purposes of this Part consists of persons with a disability that:*
- (a) is attributable to an intellectual, psychiatric, sensory or physical impairment or a combination of such impairments;*
 - (b) is permanent or likely to be permanent; and*
 - (c) results in:*
 - (i) a substantially reduced capacity of the person for communication, learning or mobility; and*
 - (ii) the need for ongoing support services.*

(2) *Where a service is provided predominantly for persons included in the target group, the service shall be taken, for the purposes of this Part, to be provided for persons in the target group notwithstanding that the service is also provided for*

some persons who are not included in the target group.

Part III-Provision of rehabilitation services by the Commonwealth

18 Target group

The target group for the purposes of this Part consists of persons who:

(a) have attained 14 years of age but have not attained 65 years of age; and

(b) have a disability that:

(i) is attributable to an intellectual, psychiatric, sensory or physical impairment or a combination of such impairments; and

(ii) results in a substantially reduced capacity of the person:

(A) to obtain or retain unsupported paid employment; or

(B) to live independently.

c) Disability Employment Services will be uncapped, so that job seekers with disability will no longer have to wait for services. A job seeker can be commenced in Disability Employment Services as soon as their eligibility is confirmed.