

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

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

**Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy**

**DEEWR Question No.EW1040\_10**

**Senator Cormann asked on 10/02/2010, Hansard page 112.**

**Question**

**JOBS FUND SUMMARY REPORT**

Senator CORMANN—That is a pretty good way to clear all of this up then. Is that report a public document? Ms Paul—I think we may have already made public a summary report, but if not I will get it for you. Senator CORMANN—So you are happy to give us a copy of the report? Ms Paul—Yes. Senator CORMANN—Beautiful! Ms Paul—We have a summary report that is— Senator CORMANN—How about getting the whole report? Ms Paul—I will take it on notice and we will get something for you. Senator CORMANN—Get something for me or get me a copy of the report? Ms Paul—I want to consider that, and I will take it on notice. Senator CORMANN—So that means that we might not get a copy of the probity report? Ms Paul—I have taken it on notice and I will have a look at it. Senator CORMANN—The summary can be so high level that you do not actually get the information? Ms Paul—No, the summaries that we have released about other processes are quite detailed, actually. I am sure it will be satisfactory, but I am happy to take it on notice.

**Answer**

The attached letter of 22 December 2009 from Clayton Utz, which undertook the probity audit for Round 1 of the Jobs Fund process, provides information on the findings of the probity audit.

## CLAYTON UTZ

Sydney Melbourne Brisbane Perth Canberra Darwin

**By Email**

22 December 2009

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Jobs Fund Management Branch  
Job Strategies Group  
Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations  
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Your ref LEX11581

Our ref 13182/13183/80094789

### **Jobs Fund Probity Auditor**

This letter relates to our role as probity auditor for the Jobs Fund Process and to our more detailed report provided to the Department on the outcomes of that audit in November 2009.

As you are aware, we conducted a retrospective audit of DEEWR's conduct of the Jobs Fund Funding Program (**Program**).

We were provided with access to all documentation that we requested in relation to the process adopted by the Department for the evaluation of, and decisions made in relation to, applications for funding under the Program, and we received detailed briefings from DEEWR officers involved in administering the Program.

Our audit found nothing to suggest that:

- any unfair favouritism was given to a proponent or group of proponents;
- any proponent or group of proponents was unfairly treated or disadvantaged;
- there was any political interference or influence regarding the funding decisions made by the Department, or any form of political patronage or bias;
- any decision made by the Department regarding the process, including the assessment of applications and regarding funding decisions, was compromised by any conflict of interest (actual, apparent or potential);
- any Departmental officer acted otherwise than with the utmost integrity. Further there is nothing to suggest that any Departmental officer breached the APS Code of Conduct in performing their duties in relation to the Program;
- decisions made did not represent best value for money or were otherwise not defensible or compliant with relevant legislative requirements (e.g. under the FMA Act and regulations);

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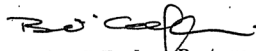
22 December 2009

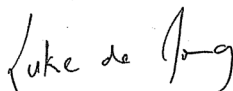
- any breach of confidentiality concerning the process occurred; or
- any legal or mandatory policy requirements were breached or otherwise not adhered to.

Our more detailed report sets out some areas of administration and process where we considered that the conduct of the Program could be improved. These areas do not represent fundamental probity issues or concerns for the program. We understand that the Department is addressing each of those areas in its ongoing conduct of the Program.

Please contact us with any queries you may have concerning this letter.

Yours sincerely

  
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