

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW0947_11

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

INDIGENOUS CLIENTS IN REMOTE AREAS

Given in limited labour markets that Indigenous clients residing in remote areas are unlikely to find suitable work, how does the Government expect providers to appropriate[ly] service these clients, even if they seek training or assistance with relocation?

Answer

There are more limited employment opportunities in most remote areas. In recognition of the difficulty and increased cost of servicing job seekers in remote areas, a 1.7 multiplier applies to service fees for employment service providers and the Employment Pathway Fund used by Job Service Australia providers.

Over time, with training and improved work readiness, there are opportunities for more Indigenous people to take up the jobs that are available and contribute to the improved function of remote communities. In the 18 months to 31 December 2010, Job Service Australia (JSA) providers had recorded 11,227 job placements for Indigenous job seekers in remote Employment Service Areas and 3,968 13-week employment outcomes.

Over the same 18 month period, Indigenous job seekers had achieved 6,999 Remote Education Commencement Outcomes for commencing accredited training at Certificate level 1, or higher, or returning to school. In addition, Indigenous job seekers had achieved 939 Remote Educational Achievement Outcomes for successfully completing a Certificate level II course, or higher, or completing a semester of school since returning to education. Employment service providers also engage remote area jobseekers in other activities that contribute to skills development and improved work readiness including CDEP, work for the dole projects and voluntary work. In addition, providers assist job seekers in overcoming non-vocational barriers to employment, including health-related issues, through referral to appropriate support services.