

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2005-2006 BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
30 ,31 MAY and 3 JUNE 2005**

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 1: Efficient and effective labour market assistance

Output Group 1.2: Labour market programme management and delivery

Output 1.2.2: Employment Services

Question Number: W178-06

Question:

Senator Wong provided in writing:

In a recent newsletter released by Minister Dutton, it was indicated that the Job Network privacy manual was so out of date, that it should not be used, and Job Network members were referred to the Privacy Commissioner for information. Why is there no longer a special kit for Job Network Members? What is the Department's policy on privacy issues for the Job Network, including for its customers?

Answer:

A notification of the withdrawal of the Privacy Awareness Training Kit, *A right to privacy*, appeared in the publication *Employment Extra*, issue 14, February 2005. This is a departmental publication.

The Privacy Awareness Training Kit was developed to assist Job Network member staff to understand their responsibilities as articulated in the second Employment Services Contract and Privacy Act. It included a training brochure, CD ROM and video cassette and as such was not intended to be continually updated. The kit has now been withdrawn as it has become out of date following the cumulative changes of the commencement of the *Employment Services Contract 2003-2006* and the Administrative Arrangement Order of 2004.

The *Employment Services Contract 2003-2006* specifies the requirements that Job Network members must comply with in relation to privacy issues. Job Network members are contractually bound to comply with laws and government policy, including the Privacy Act 1988, with specific reference to adherence to the National Privacy Principles and the Information Privacy Principles. Job Network members are contractually bound to comply with the requirements set by the *Employment Services Contract 2003-2006 Record Rules* and the *Employment Services Code of Practice*,

which also refers to compliance with all relevant Australian laws including privacy. If a Job Network member breaches the contract or *Employment Services Code of Practice* sanctions may be imposed that could include suspension or termination of the contract.

Job Seekers that have any complaints, including those about breaching of privacy are encouraged to contact the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations' Customer Service line 1800 805 260 and the matters are investigated by a Customer Service Officer. Job seekers may also choose to bring their complaint to the attention of the Privacy Commissioner.