

**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 3: Increased workforce participation**

**Output Group 3.1.1: Working Age Policy and Legislation**

**Question Number: W155-06**

**Question:**

Senator Wong provided in writing:

Can you clarify if the places available for parents in the Employment Preparation service are a substitute for or complementary to additional Job Network places, Return to Work (RTW), Jobs Education and Training (JET) places and Personal Advisers for parents?

**Answer:**

Employment Preparation will be a service provided by Job Network members to job seekers. Access to Employment Preparation for parents on income support, as with all Job Network services, will be on a demand driven basis. The Return to Work programme was replaced by Transition to Work services on 1 July 2002. Transition to Work will cease on 1 July 2006 and will be replaced by Employment Preparation. The Jobs, Education and Training programme is administered by the Department of Family and Community Services and will continue. Personal Adviser interviews will cease from 1 July 2006, except for limited follow up interviews during a three month transition period.

**Question:**

Are RTW and JET programmes continuing? With the same budget allocations?

**Answer:**

The Return to Work programme was replaced by Transition to Work on 1 July 2002, and is therefore not continuing. (Employment Preparation will replace Transition To Work on 1 July 2006.) The Jobs, Education and Training programme is administered by the Department of Family and Community Services.

**Question:**

What does the Employment Preparation service entail?

**Answer:**

Employment Preparation will provide a range of individual and flexible employment assistance for parents, carers and mature aged job seekers within Job Network (and delivered by Job Network members) from 1 July 2006.

Employment Preparation will be tailored to the individual needs of each job seeker. Final details of Employment Preparation are still being developed.

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations is consulting with stakeholders on the detailed design of Employment Preparation services.

**Question:**

At what stage will people receive it?

**Answer:**

Eligible job seekers with no workforce experience within the last two years will receive Employment Preparation services as soon as they start participating in Job Network. People with recent workforce experience will receive Employment Preparation after they have been participating in Job Network for three months without finding employment.