

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

**Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0188\_12**

**Senator Nash provided in writing.**

**Question**

I understand the budget includes employer incentives and Employment Broker Projects to help get people with disabilities into work. In my discussions with special education stakeholders, one of their biggest concerns was ensuring students secured ongoing work when leaving school. How will these budget initiatives benefit them? Are there measures in place that specifically focus on placing school leavers in work to ensure they have a secure future? Will there be an emphasis on school leavers in the Disability Employment Broker project?

**Answer**

As outlined in the budget the Government will provide \$2.7 million to support the extension of current Disability Employment Services (DES) pilots until 3 March 2013 to support young people with disability make the transition from school support to employment services and assist people with moderate intellectual disability secure sustainable employment.

To ensure that the transition from school to employment is as smooth as possible, eligible secondary school students with a disability can access DES without undertaking a Job Capacity Assessment. Under the Eligible School Leaver provisions full-time secondary students can access DES if they are:

- in their last six months of secondary school, or
- full-time students participating in a school-based apprenticeship, or
- full-time students intending to work part time outside school hours.

Additionally, former secondary school students with a disability are also eligible for assistance if they register with a DES provider within 12 months of leaving school or if they are participating in a state-based transition to work program.

School leavers will benefit from the availability of wage subsidies, which are particularly effective in encouraging employers to offer employment opportunities to participants who do not have relevant employment experience. To complement the \$1500 wage subsidy currently available to DES participants, the budget provided 1000 enhanced wage subsidies per year of up to \$3000 for employment of at least six months, for DES participants who have not been employed for the previous 12 months.

The Government will also provide \$1.0 million in 2012–13 to fund up to 10 disability employment broker projects, to help create job opportunities for people with disabilities and build relationships with employer and industry groups. While not

specifically targeted at school leavers, this cohort will benefit from the job opportunities created.

The projects will deliver information and training to targeted employer and industry groups to improve their knowledge of government programs and services that support the employment of people with disability. In addition, they will facilitate the delivery of training to increase employers' confidence in working with people with disability.