

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

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

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW0218_12

Senator Nash provided in writing.

Question

Job Services Australia Demonstration Pilots

"Job Services Australia demonstration pilots - There is \$4.7 million over three years in the budget to conduct 20 pilot projects that will trial 'innovative approaches' to providing employment assistance to highly disadvantaged job seekers (up to 5000) in targeted locations. • Where are these locations? • What exactly is involved? • How long will the pilots go for? • What happens then? "

Answer

Locations for JSA Pilots

Eligibility for the Job Services Australia (JSA) Demonstration Pilots has been limited to 27 identified areas of disadvantage. Eligible high performing providers in these areas will be invited to submit applications for funding. The identified areas of disadvantage are:

- Ballarat-Bendigo VIC
- Bundaberg-Hervey Bay QLD
- Caboolture-Sunshine Coast QLD
- Cairns QLD
- Canterbury-Bankstown & South West Sydney NSW
- Central Coast-Hunter NSW
- East and South Tasmania
- Gold Coast QLD
- Greater Geelong VIC
- Illawarra NSW
- Ipswich-Logan QLD
- Mid-North Coast NSW
- North Eastern Victoria
- North West/Northern Tasmania
- North Western Melbourne VIC
- Northern and Western Adelaide SA
- Port Augusta-Whyalla-Port Pirie SA
- Richmond-Tweed & Clarence Valley NSW
- RockhamptonQLD
- South Central NSW
- South Eastern Melbourne VIC
- South Eastern SA
- South West Perth WA
- Southern Wide Bay-Burnett QLD

- Sunraysia VIC
- Sydney West & Blue Mountains NSW
- Townsville-ThuringowaQLD

What is involved in the Demonstration Pilots?

The JSA Demonstration Pilots will enable DEEWR to engage leading providers to capture best practice in service delivery, explore innovative approaches and partnerships, with the aim of achieving improved employment and education outcomes for highly disadvantaged job seekers, particularly those with multiple barriers to employment. The pilots will test alternative approaches to employment services providers coordinating access to, and supporting provision from, complementary non-vocational services such as drug and alcohol counselling, homeless services, youth and mental health services.

How long will the pilots go for?

Allowing sufficient time for applications to be written and assessed, and funding agreements to be negotiated and signed, it is expected the pilots will commence in October/November 2011. The pilots will cease on 30 June 2013, with a requirement that each project complete a final evaluation report and acquit all funding by 31 August 2013.

What happens at the end of the pilots?

Along with achieving outcomes for participating highly disadvantaged job seekers, another objective of the pilots is to inform and provide valuable evidence for future policy. The relative success and design of the pilot projects will provide valuable input for policy development in preparation for future employment services contract arrangements.