

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

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

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW0219_12

Senator Nash provided in writing.

Question

Priority Employment Area Initiatives

"Priority Employment Area initiatives The budget No 2 paper, details \$45.2 million over two years to extend the current Priority Area Employment initiatives that include Jobs and Skills expos and Local Employment Coordinators in priority regional areas.
• Where are these priority regional areas? • How were they decided on? • How many people in these regional areas have secured employment as a result? "

Answer

Where are these priority regional areas?

The priority employment areas in the extension of the initiative will remain the same as the current initiative.

These are located across Australia with;

- 6 in New South Wales,
- 6 in Queensland,
- 4 in Victoria,
- 2 in South Australia,
- 1 in Western Australia; and
- 1 in Tasmania.

How were they decided on?

The identification of the priority employment areas was based on an analysis of around 70 labour market indicators, the combination of which increase a region's likelihood of experiencing labour market disadvantage now or in the future.

How many people in these regional areas have secured employment as a result?

Local Employment Coordinators are not responsible for securing the employment of individuals. Their role is to work closely with all levels of government, employers and other organisations to help drive local solutions to local labour market problems.

As part of the initiative, Keep Australia Working Jobs and Skills Expos were held in priority employment areas from October 2009 to December 2010. A total of 40 Expos were held with over 154,000 people attending and more than 15,500 people connected with employment opportunities.