

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

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

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW0339_12

Senator Abetz asked on 31/05/2011, Hansard page 38.

Question

Definition Of 'Remote Area'

Senator ABETZ: Do we have a definition of 'remote area' or not? Ms Paul: Yes, we do for Job Services Australia. Ms Parker: In relation to this? Senator ABETZ: Yes. I am going to ask how many failures were recorded in remote areas. One assumes they might be disproportionate to the rest of the country, but let us see what the figures tell us. Ms Milliken: For the purposes of compliance data, we have extracted information based on the location code of the job seeker—so where Centrelink advises the jobseeker is living in a remote location. We use that definition for the compliance record. Senator ABETZ: What is Centrelink's definition; do you have that? We will have to ask Centrelink? Ms Paul: I think there are codes but we can take that on notice and we will do the definition later.

Answer

Centrelink has advised that, for the work undertaken with DEEWR, Centrelink applies a locality based definition of remote which is as follows: Remote - Isolated area with limited services & access. The application of this definition was based on a number of indicators such as relative isolation, availability of and access to services and the Centrelink servicing requirements relating to the community.