

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2003-2004 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING
6 NOVEMBER**

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 1: An effectively functioning labour market

Output Group 1.1: Labour Market Policy and Advice

Outputs 1.1.1: Policy Advice

Question Number: W270-04

Question:

Senator Campbell asked at *Hansard* page 92:

- (1) Could the department please provide a list of youth programmes that:
 - (a) are up and running;
 - (b) are in the piloting process; and
 - (c) are being developed.
- (2) What are the targets, or outcomes, for each of those programmes?

Answer:

(1)(a) Young people benefit from a range of programmes and initiatives which DEWR has put in place to help job seekers into work. For example, all young people (15 to 20 years) who are not full-time students, irrespective of whether they are on income support or not, are eligible for assistance from Job Network members. Youth Specialist providers are specially equipped to assist young people. Under the third employment services contract, *the Active Participation Model*, there are 18 youth specialist Job Network sites.

Under the *Active Participation Model*, job seekers are able to access complementary employment and training programmes provided by other Australian and State Government agencies. These programmes include Language, Literacy and Numeracy Training, Jobs Pathway Programme, the New Apprenticeship Access Programme, the Job Placement, Employment and Training Programme and the Career Counselling Programme

DEWR's new web site, *jobjuice*, for young job seekers is the primary means of communicating with the majority of young people. It provides ready access to JobSearch, Career Quiz and a range of related sites including Job Network. Promotion of *jobjuice* through advertising and displays is ongoing and enhancements to the site are planned for the near future.

A youth toolbox is available to Job Network members as an on-line resource kit about servicing young people. *Get Smart*, a comic for youth at risk has been developed and distributed through youth centres and refuges. The target audience for *Get Smart* is eligible 'at risk' young people not yet engaged with Job Network. The primary messages in the comic are that work is a positive experience and that Job Network is there to help young people who are looking for work.

Many young people benefit from Work for the Dole which provides useful work experience and increases young people's confidence. The Government is also committed to reducing youth unemployment through the retention of junior wage rates.

- (b) A six month trial placement of touch screen units in two youth centres has been funded until the end of December 2003. Young people using the services of the two youth centres can access the JobSearch database through the touch screen units without having to go to Centrelink offices. They can then apply for suitable positions or contact the relevant Job Network member to find out more.
- (c) DEWR is working with the Department of Education, Science and Training to improve services for young people, including on school-to-work transition.
 - A Career Counsellor Resource Kit about Job Network has just been distributed to career counsellors, principals and Parents and Citizens Association in all secondary schools nationally and to members of the Australian Association of Career Counsellors. It is intended to assist young people who are about to leave school who are not going on to higher education as well as those who have already left school but are unemployed. Additional material may be developed if feedback from counsellors and other sources indicate a need for this.

DEWR will continue to communicate with young unemployed people through its current range of products and networks. In addition it will:

- arrange for focus group testing with groups of 'at risk' young people to develop and assess a range of communication approaches/resources that appeal to young disadvantaged job seekers as well as avoiding duplication of existing products;
- encourage Job Network providers to have a focused promotional effort around Youth week;
- continue to work with other departments through the Simple Service Solutions initiative (initiated by FaCS through the Secretaries' Advisory Group on Youth), the Centrelink Youth Servicing Strategy and DoTaRS Sustainable Regions programme.

From July 2004 eligible job seekers aged 16-24 years will be referred to Intensive Support job search training as soon as they start receiving unemployment payments. By providing this help as soon as they become unemployed, instead of waiting for three months, these young people will be better equipped to find a job earlier than they might have otherwise.

- (2) The intended outcomes from DEWR's initiatives are for more young people to gain employment and/or education outcomes. The youth targets for 2003-04, as outlined in Portfolio Budget Statements, are to maintain positive outcomes and off-benefit outcomes (as compared to 2002-03). For example, the positive outcome rate for young people under Job Search Training in 2002-03 was 52.7 per cent.