

**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 Analysis**

**Output 1.1.2: Research, Evaluation and Reporting**

**Question Number: W274-04**

**Question:**

Senator Campbell asked at *Hansard* page 93/94:

- a) Can the department confirm that, between 22 July and 18 August 2003, it notified the Parliamentary Library that estimates on regional teenage unemployment would no longer be circulated?
- b) Can the department confirm that either Minister Anthony or Minister Abbott, or their staff, requested or instructed that the estimates no longer be circulated to either the library or any of the opposition parties?
- c) What were the reasons why the circulation of the estimates were withdrawn?
- d) If this did happen, can the department confirm whether or not it was a result of a complaint about the figures being circulated and published by the media in the Richmond Tweed Electorate?
- e) Can the department provide any correspondence, including email correspondence, which was received or circulated between 17 July and 18 August 2003 dealing with youth unemployment estimates, specifically the decision to cease the circulation of the estimates?

**Answer:**

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No. This decision was not in response to a request or instruction from Minister Abbott or Minister Anthony or their staff.
- (c) The decision was taken by the Department alone and reflected the fact that the data are collected and compiled by, and are publicly available from, the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Accordingly, the Department did not consider it necessary to continue what had been an informal arrangement under which it had provided these data to the Parliamentary Library.
- (d) The decision was not as a result of a complaint about the figures being circulated and published by the media.

- (e) This advice was conveyed to the Parliamentary Library by telephone. No correspondence, including by email, exists on this matter.