

**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 1.2:** Labour market programme management and delivery

**Output 1.2.2:** Employment Services

**Question Number:** W285-04

**Question:**

Senator Webber asked in writing:

In the June Estimates Hearing we had a discussion about the Employment Innovation Fund. As part of that discussion Mr Correll said that the guidelines would be developed within the “next four to six weeks”.

- (a) Have the guidelines been finalised?
- (b) Can the Department provide a list of successful projects and their locations?
- (c) What was the selection process?
- (d) How much was spent on advertising the fund?
- (e) Was a consultant brought in to develop the guidelines etc?

**Answer:**

- (a) Yes. The guidelines are available to the public from the Australian Workplace website: [www.workplace.gov.au](http://www.workplace.gov.au)
- (b) Information about approved projects is also available on the EIF page of the Australian Workplace website. A summary of projects approved to date is as follows:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Project Summary</b>
Western Port Area Consultative Committee	<b>Organisation:</b> Dandenong, VIC <b>Project:</b> Mornington Peninsula and Frankston, VIC	Specialised training course and networking process for Mature Aged job seekers aimed at improving employability and boosting self esteem for jobseekers; and raising local employers' awareness of possibilities for employing Mature Aged job seekers
Islamic Council of Victoria	<b>Organisation:</b> West Melbourne, VIC <b>Project:</b> Melbourne metropolitan area	Research project to identify the barriers to employment for Muslim job seekers and culturally appropriate employment options. Information gleaned may potentially form the basis of relevant advice to Job Network members.

- (c) The selection process for proposals is as follows:
1. Project proposal is received. Proposals consist of two parts: Part A contains the Financial Viability information; Part B contains the project information.
  2. Part A of the proposal is forwarded to DEWR Financial Viability assessors.
  3. Part B of the proposal is forwarded to the following for comment:
    - The executive of the relevant Area Consultative Committee (ACC);
    - The appropriate DEWR State Manager; and
    - Members of the Project Application Review Committee, made up of representatives from each Employment Group within the Department. Members of this committee may also forward the proposal on to relevant subject experts within their Group.
  4. The Project Application Review Committee meets to discuss the proposal, taking into consideration comments from the ACC, State Office and other DEWR staff. Projects are assessed against the following criteria:
    - has clearly defined objectives which are consistent with national strategic priorities for improving labour market effectiveness (see below);

**NATIONAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

    1. Implement the *Active Participation Model* across all employment programmes and services
    2. Monitor and analyse the labour market to support policy development and implementation, and to enable early identification of changes in labour market conditions
    3. Strengthen incentives for work through welfare reform initiatives
    4. Strengthen economic participation through effective management of job seeker obligations
    5. Improve labour market effectiveness through targeted industry based strategies.
    6. Improve labour market participation for mature aged people, lone parents, Indigenous Australians and people with a disability
    7. Improve employment outcomes for long term unemployed and other 'at risk' groups in the labour market, especially Indigenous Australians

    - is innovative in nature;
    - demonstrates strong commitment from relevant stakeholders (eg local community groups, industry associations, interest groups);
    - has measurable outcomes and involves approaches that are able to be implemented more broadly; and
    - is supported by good management practices (ie realistic project budgets and timelines, effective financial and evaluation strategies).
  5. The Project Application Review Committee makes a recommendation on each project to the Employment Management Committee and the Departmental Delegate, who make a final determination.

(d) Nil. No formal advertising has been conducted. Information has been disseminated via, an article in the *Job Network Bulletin*, the EIF page on the Australian Workplace website and letters to peak industry groups.

(e) No.