

**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**

**Output 1.1.1: Policy Advice**

**Question Number: W287-04:**

**Question:**

Senator Webber asked in writing:

The Annual Report states that the Department spent the year working with the Department of Family and Community Services and the Department of Education, Science and Training to develop a mature age workers strategy.

- (a) What is the Mature Age Workers Strategy?
- (b) When will it be released?
- (c) How will it affect the operations of the Job Network?

**Answer:**

- (a) During 2002 DEWR worked jointly with FaCS and DEST on drafting a mature age workers strategy as part of the Government's response to the Nelson Report. The three agencies worked closely with the Welfare Reform Consultative Forum and a work in progress paper was considered by the Forum at its meeting on 5 February 2003.
- (b) The draft Mature Age Workers Strategy has been incorporated into the ongoing work of the Demographic Taskforce.
- (c) The Job Network contract includes mature age as one of the special groups in the Key Performance Indicators. The performance of Job Network to date has been good and analysis of the Mature Age Workers Strategy has informed DEWR's work with Job Network to improve mature age outcomes.