

**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: W292-04

Question:

Senator Webber asked in writing:

How useful/new was the work compared with the work done by the Department of Health and Ageing through their National Strategy for an ageing Australia?

Answer:

The National Strategy for an Ageing Australia was released by the then Minister for Ageing in October 2001. The Strategy was developed to provide a coordinated national response to issues surrounding population ageing. It provides a strategic framework to underpin the Government's leadership role in encouraging the development of appropriate economic and social policies for an ageing population.

The aim of the workshops was, principally, to provide information to mature age people on the changing nature of the labour market and issues associated with portfolio employment. The Department significantly expanded the format and content of the 2002-03 workshops to include a broad range of employment specialists experienced in assisting mature age people.

The workshops' objectives are consistent with the goals outlined in the National Strategy but do not duplicate work done to develop the Strategy. The workshops were part of an education campaign for mature age workers in line with recommendation 19 of the Age Counts Report released by the Parliamentary Inquiry into mature age unemployment chaired by Dr Brendan Nelson. The Report was released in June 2000 and initial funding for the workshops was provided in the 2001-02 Budget as a component of the Australians Working Together package.