

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009–10**

**Outcome** 4

**DEEWR Question No.** EW486\_10

Senator Cash provided in writing.

**Question**

*Youth Unemployment*

What action is DEEWR taking specifically to improve the employment rate for 15–24 year old job seekers?

**Answer**

DEEWR is implementing a range of initiatives to improve the employment rate for 15–24 year old job seekers. Job Services Australia is delivering improved services tailored to the employment needs of young people, including highly disadvantaged youth through 130 youth specialist sites across Australia.

The Compact with Young Australians will increase the number of young people with Year 12 and equivalent qualifications by: guaranteeing every young person under 25 an education or training place; introducing mandatory participation in education, training or work for people under age 17; and linking Youth Allowance (other) with participation in education or training. Year 12 and equivalent qualifications are associated with better employment outcomes over person's working life.

The Productivity Places Program and the National Green Jobs Corps will provide job seekers with skills that will help meet industry needs as the economy recovers. Additional support for apprentices and employers through programs such as the Apprentice Kickstart Bonus and the Securing Apprenticeships and Traineeships initiative create opportunities for young people to enter and remain in apprenticeships.