

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

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

Outcome/Agency 4
DEEWR Question No. **EW508_10**

Senator Cash provided in writing.

Indigenous Employment

Question

On what date were successful tenderers for the Indigenous Employment Programs Employment Panel and Economic Development and Business Support Panel announced? Was this within the timeframe that DEEWR envisaged? By what date had DEEWR concluded the tender assessment? On what date were the results given to the Minister? Which Minister had responsibility for signing off on them? What caused the delay with announcing the results?

Answer

The timetable published on page iii of the *Request for Tender for Two Panels for the Indigenous Employment Program* stated that final tender results would be announced in June 2009.

Tenderers were notified of the tender results on 26 June 2009.

The Minister for Employment Participation announced the final results on 1 July 2009, coinciding with the commencement of the contracts.

The final results, as decided by the Delegate and notified to tenderers on 26 June 2009, were provided to the Minister for noting immediately before that announcement. The announcement reflected the results notified to tenderers on 26 June 2009.

DEEWR did not make it a requirement for providers to have premises, signed leases, established IT equipment and staff in place by 1 July 2009 or any other specific date. The nature of these panel arrangements, whereby providers were not guaranteed business, meant that to impose any such requirements would have added a potentially significant financial burden to each organisation appointed to the one or both of the Panels without any guarantee of the providers being able to recoup their investment. Panel members' readiness to provide services is taken into consideration during any subsequent negotiations of project proposals.

The IEP continued to provide assistance to Indigenous Australians from 1 July 2009 through 1305 ongoing contracts executed before 1 July 2009.

This figure includes:

- o 621 tailored employment and training projects (STEP and STEP ERS),
- o 183 projects business support and development projects, and
- o 501 cadetship projects