

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**CROSS PORTFOLIO SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009-10
DEPT OF EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

Outcome/Agency **4**

DEEWR Question No. **EW689_10**

Senator Humphries asked on 21 October 2009, EEWL Hansard page 137.

Question

National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Economic Participation

What has been achieved so far under each of the four elements described in the objectives of the National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Economic Participation?

Answer

Responsibility for the implementation of the National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Economic Participation rests with the Commonwealth and each jurisdiction that is party to the agreement.

Bilateral Implementation Plans are agreed for all jurisdictions.

Update on Commonwealth Implementation

Element 1: Jobs in Government Service Delivery (as at 4 November 2009)

- A total of 1549 jobs for Indigenous Australians have been created under the CDEP Jobs Package in government service delivery.
- 1234 positions have been created by the Commonwealth to fund government service delivery previously supported through CDEP. 88 per cent of Commonwealth positions have been confirmed as filled.

Element 2: Government procurement policies to maximise Indigenous employment

- The Government is currently considering revisions to its procurement policies to increase opportunities for Indigenous employment.
- Materials to support best practice in procurement activity and to support application of the revised Australian Government policy are in development.

Element 3: The Indigenous workforce strategy principle

- The Agreement includes a commitment to incorporate Indigenous workforce strategies into all major COAG reforms. A COAG Indigenous Reform Circular has been distributed to Commonwealth, state and territory agencies to support implementation of the Indigenous workforce strategy principle.
- Further guidance is being developed to assist agencies to incorporate the Indigenous workforce strategy principle into reforms within their responsibility.

- One example of where the principle has been applied is to the National Partnership for the East Kimberley Development Package.

Element 4: Public Sector Employment

- The Agreement includes a commitment for the Commonwealth and state and territory governments to increase Indigenous employment across the public sector to 2.6 per cent by 2015 to reflect the national Indigenous working age population share. The Department has worked with State and Territory governments to develop jurisdiction-specific targets that will contribute to the overall national target.
- The Commonwealth has set a target of 2.7 per cent.
- The Australian Public Service Employment and Capability Strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employees, managed by the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) has been in operation in the APS since 2005 (about 40% of the Commonwealth public sector). The Strategy provides evidence and best practice of what measures are effective in engaging employees and agencies.
- Some non-APS agencies have developed their own Indigenous Employment Strategies, and many are required, under the *Equal Employment Opportunity (Commonwealth Authorities) Act 1987* to promote equal opportunity in employment for Indigenous Australians.
- The APSC and DEEWR are working closely on the strategy for the APS and broader Commonwealth public sector strategy.