

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Additional Budget Estimates Hearing – February 2010
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Topic: Disability

Question reference number: PM 93

Senator Fifield asked:

The recent State of the Service Report says the 2008/09 engagement rate of people with a disability at its lowest in 10 years. Engagement peaked in 2003 with 3.5% engagement compared to today which is 1.3%.

- a. What was the ASPC engagement procedure in 2003 that resulted in the peak?
- b. What has changed to create the steady decline?
- c. Is the ASPC considering setting targets for employing people with a disability?

Type of Question: *Written*

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 March 2010

Number of Pages:

Response:

- a. There was no change in Commission engagement procedures that resulted in a peak in the employment of people with disability in the 12 months to June 2003. According to data from the Australian Public Service Employment Database, the increase was mainly attributable to an increase in the engagement of people with disability by Centrelink.
- b. There have been no changes in engagement procedures that could be a factor attributed to the decline in the employment of people with disability in the Australian Public Service (APS).
- c. Under the National Mental Health and Disability Employment Strategy, the Commission has been tasked with asking agencies to consider whether setting employment targets for people with a disability would be effective in their agencies and, if so, what strategies may be effective in increasing the employment of people with disability in the APS. Targets will be considered as one option among a broad range of options for these strategies.