

EMPLOYMENT DIRECTIONS

611. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Education and Training

I refer the Minister to the Employment Directions initiative announced on Monday, 18 November 2002 and ask:

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- (a) isn't this 'new' initiative just another way of announcing cutbacks to the former Joblink program;
- (b) what was the total number of Joblink programs in operation in Western Australia before the announced changes;
- (c) how many staff were employed by the former Joblink programs;
- (d) how many of these dedicated staff will lose their jobs;
- (e) how many clients did these programs service;
- (f) of these clients, how many will be forced to find alternative program providers;
- (g) of those clients that are forced to find an alternative program provider, will any transport concession or subsidy be offered; and
- (h) of the dedicated staff who will lose their jobs, will any be offered positions with other providers?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER replied:

- a) No. Employment Directions is the result of extensive consultations, with over 800 people participating in focus groups and think tanks, which facilitated the collaborative development of an innovative model that aims to provide effective assistance to enable clients to manage the progression of their own career by enhancing their employability. The Review of Labour Market Programs was a Government election commitment, and signalled the first significant review of the Joblink program since it was established over 15 years ago.
- b) Prior to the establishment of Employment Directions the Department had Joblink Resource agreements with 36 community based agencies delivering at 41 venues.
- c) It is not possible to determine the number of staff employed as a result of Joblink funding. Many of the community based agencies receiving Joblink funding also delivered a range of other State and Commonwealth employment and training services, generally resulting in staff delivering services across a number of program funding areas.
- d) As it is not possible to identify staff employed as a result of Joblink funding, it is not possible to identify if staff have ceased employment as a result of the conclusion of the Joblink program.
- e) The Joblink program reported 11,399 client outcomes into either employment or further education in 2001-02.
- f) None. Clients will continue to receive assistance under Employment Directions. Employment Directions providers are selected from organisations which previously delivered Joblink services and clients will be notified of any changes.
- g) Not applicable. Through effective partnerships and extensive use of information and communications technology, an additional 100 Employment Directions venues have already been established across regional and remote WA.
- h) Employment Directions providers are independent incorporated legal entities which make their own staffing decisions.