

Disability Employment Services – Technical Advisory Group

Minutes of meeting held on Friday, 18 December 2009, 9.30am – 4.30pm

Present: Tony Waslin (Chair), Peter Tanner, Jason Mckey, Greg Hall, Carl Princehorn, Bec Jackson, David Thompson, Annette Williams, Nikki Brouwers, Annette Gill, Nic Bolto, Greg Barton, Pauline Disseldorp, Rosemary Wallage, Viv Gugger, Lucy Macali, Alison Durbin, Alex Kerr, Raymond Lubansky, Cedric Seveque, Andy Weiss (Access Economics), Joe Dwyer and Heather Byrne (Probity),

Apologies: Sally Sinclair, Jenny Kitchen, Stuart Reidy-Croft and Kristin Lumley.

Welcome

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes for meeting 4

2. The Chair tabled the minutes for meeting 4 (25 November 2009) of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and the content of the minutes were accepted by the TAG, with an additional discussion point, raised by Viv Gugger, to be added by the Department.

Independent Variables and other data issues

3. The Department outlined which additional independent variables, which were requested by the TAG during meeting 4, had been added to the DES data set for testing.
4. The TAG identified further additional independent variables for possible inclusion in the DES regression models.

#	Action Item	Responsible	Due Date	Status
1	Investigate if it would be possible to include the identified independent variables in the regression models	Department	Next Meeting	New

5. The TAG held a wide ranging discussion on consistency and reliability of Job Capacity Assessments as a data source for the regression models. The Department agreed to consider inviting Departmental representatives from the JCA Program Management Team to attend the next TAG meeting.

#	Action Item	Responsible	Due Date	Status
2	Consider if it would be appropriate to invite representatives from the JCA Program Management Team to attend a TAG meeting	Department	Next Meeting	New

6. The Group discussed whether the performance rating methodology provided additional incentive for placing more difficult job seekers and whether it is possible to gain high ratings by focusing assistance only on the easier to place. Cedric Seveque noted these general kinds of concerns apply across employment services.

7. The TAG agreed it would be appropriate to provide a star rating for Program A providers with too few participants in scope for KPI 2.8. This would be achieved by factoring up the weighting of the remaining KPIs to 100 percent for such providers.
8. The TAG agreed to use alternative data sources to augment data for eligible school leavers and other participants in the regression models, if a JCA did not exist.

Reporting

9. The Group requested that ESA level performance data be available for each provider within an ESA and for data on job tenure be included in the reports to providers if possible. The Department indicated that reporting requirements will be discussed at a later stage in the consultation process.
10. The Department has committed to producing a scoping document by the end of January for a project to investigate the trend in hours and wages for DEN participants.

#	Action Item	Responsible	Due Date	Status
3	Produce a short scoping document for a project to investigate the trend in hours, wages and job tenure	Department	End of January	New

Key Performance Indicators - measurement definitions

11. The TAG agreed that transition clients should not be included in KPI 1.1 and that a participant’s duration in assistance, for the independent variable duration in assistance, should not be reset if they change organisation.
12. The Group agreed to exclude participants from KPI 1.1 who exit due to a long term activity test exemption and those who are non-contactable.

Statistical Analysis from Access Economics

13. Access Economics presented the statistical analysis they have conducted on the performance rating regression models, including analysis regarding the measurement of disability.
14. The TAG discussed the minimum number of calculations required to estimate a star rating and the implications of having too few participants at a site to estimate a star rating. The Department agreed to continue to consider the minimum number of calculations required to reliably estimate a star.

#	Action Item	Responsible	Due Date	Status
4	Department to report back on proposed minimum numbers required to reliably estimate a star rating	Department	Next Meeting	New

15. The TAG discussed the lower outcome rates shown in the analysis, in comparison to the outcome rates currently experienced in DEN and VRS.

#	Action Item	Responsible	Due Date	Status
5	Investigate the low outcome rates in the DES data set	Department	Next Meeting	Old

16. The Group held a wide ranging discussion about the measurement of disability and a participant's barriers, noting Access Economics' view that including the full list of these variables did not significantly contribute to the explanatory power of the model. The TAG came to the decision that independent variables for the JCA barriers should be included in the regression models, as well as the full list of medical condition independent variables, unless a suitable aggregation of medical conditions can be found.

Other Business

17. The Department indicated that, subject to availability, the next meeting would occur in Melbourne in the week beginning the 18th of January, 2010.