

JPET Exposure Draft consultation session Questions and Answers

Will the number of capped JPET places remain the same?

Places remain capped at 14,000 each financial year.

Do you anticipate much variation in the numbers per ESA?

Numbers will be released in the RFT.

When will the draft funding agreement be available?

The draft funding deed is on the Employment Services purchasing website.

There doesn't seem to be an acquittal process mentioned in Exposure Draft. What is the process? How is it different to now?

There will be an annual acquittal process. Services will be required to provide an audited statement of expenditure against each line item for the previous financial year by the end of September for the previous financial year.

Looks like a set price per participant – no bid price?

Funding will be based on a set price per participant with extra loading for remote services.

On the business reallocation model, if we meet contracted numbers is there any chance of our numbers being reduced?

DEWR might consider allocating additional places and funding to the ESA from a service that isn't meeting its contract target number of participants. The only situation where numbers could be reduced is if a service isn't meeting other requirements in the funding deed.

What are CWCAs?

There is a detailed description of Comprehensive Work Capacity Assessments (CWCAs) on page 5 of the Exposure Draft for Job Placement, Employment and Training Funding Arrangements 2006.

Did the Lapsing Programme Review point out need for data collection changes?

The LPR identified the need to improve data collection for JPET. It is DEWR's intention is to move JPET onto EA3000 at some stage during the 2006-09 funding agreement. DEWR will be reviewing data collection requirements in consultation with providers at that time.

How would training be provided to JPET providers on how to use EA3000?

DEWR will provide service providers with training on DEWR transactional systems, including EA3000. More information can be found in Appendix A of the JPET Exposure Draft.

Are there any specifications regarding advertising locally for JPET services eg local media?

When developing JPET service specific marketing material, providers must use the Commonwealth Crest (the coat of arms) accompanied by the words 'An Australian Government initiative' and, the JPET logo with the words 'An Australian Government initiative'.

All successful tenders will be provided with access to the JPET guidelines which includes information on marketing material.

Which programmes do not allow concurrent participation with the JPET programme?

There are some programmes that do not allow concurrent participation with JPET. This is to avoid “double-dipping” and to enable clients to transition between services. Where clients are transferring from JPET to another programme there is a provision for short-term support for a few weeks to smooth the transition. Refer to page 28 of the Exposure Draft.

What were the key changes flowing from the LPR?

The key changes flowing from the Lapsing Programme Review were; to develop strong linkages with other DEWR employment programmes; to improve performance management and accountability; clarification of the programme objectives and target group and a move to a three year funding agreement.

Would it be wise to suspend all inter-organisational steering committees during the purchasing period bearing in mind that for some organisations, attendance at steering committee meetings is a requirement of the current funding agreement? There are also concerns that individual service ideas will find their way into multiple tender applications.

The inter-organisational steering committees are attended by providers on a voluntary basis. Following a variation to the Funding Agreement, providers are no longer required to attend these steering committee meetings. As such, it is a matter for individual providers to determine whether they wish to participate in the steering committees during the purchasing period. Further, it is for individual providers to consider the protection of their own business information and intellectual property during any discussions at the steering committees.

Tenderers should note that the request for tender for JPET services will contain rules regarding eligibility to tender, which will include the impact of collusive tendering on a tenderer's eligibility. Tenderers should be aware of the possible implications on their

eligibility to tender if their participation in the steering committees, or the information shared at any steering committee, leads to substantial commonality in tenders submitted by different organisations.

Is the funding mentioned in previous consultation at the same level in the next funding period?

Yes, approximately \$20 million per year to provide assistance to around 14,000 participants per year.

Is the JPET presentation available online?

Yes, on the employment services purchasing website.

Is there an expectation of the number and location of sites required to service a particular ESA?

No, it is up to the individual tenderer to specify the delivery service model it considers appropriate for the ESA.

Is there a set service model for how JPET services in a ESA?

No, it is up to the individual tenderer to specify the delivery service model they think is appropriate for each ESA in which it is tendering for places.

How do we manage the transition for existing services from the current funding model to the next funding model?

A transition strategy is being developed. All existing services are required to continue providing services as per the Funding Agreement until 30 June 2006.

Does a participant have to be in receipt of Centrelink payments to be eligible for JPET?

No.

There are several notable differences between the JPET Exposure Draft and the recently issued JPET Programme Guidelines. Will the details in the Exposure Draft take precedent?

Yes. The JPET Programme Guidelines relate to the current funding period and will be updated for the 2006-09 funding period closer to the start of the 2006-09 funding period.

What areas are remote and which are standard?

The RFT will detail which areas are remote and which are standard.

If there is an organisation that operates under a name that includes 'Consortium' in the title, although they are not registered as a consortium and

are not an incorporated body. Can they bid for services in a number of ESAs using the name that contains 'Consortium' in the title?

The eligibility to tender rules will be specified in the Request for Tender.

The 10% Brokerage requirement could have significant implications for Rural & Remote it could cost staff. a) Will there be consideration/negotiation that Rural & Remote can still maximise cost? b) Re cost per participant of \$1540 and \$1760, some regions could cover both. Will it be 'carte blanche'? Will it be one or the other? Or will some be able to be in both?

The JPET programme operates on a cost per participant model and includes a funding differential that recognises there are often higher costs involved in delivering services to remote localities. The exposure draft outlines that the approximate cost per participant that will be provided to organisations funded in Employment Service Areas (ESAs) designated as remote will be \$1760 (GST inc). The final funding amounts per participant will be released with the JPET RFT. The RFT will also include information as to whether ESAs are designated as Standard or Remote for JPET funding purposes.

Essential to have community linkages but there is no apparent outcome – why?

The objective of the JPET programme is to assist young people aged between 15 and 21 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and facing multiple non-vocational barriers overcome their issues and achieve social and economic outcomes appropriate to their situation. The JPET Performance Management Framework will measure how a funded provider achieves social and economic outcomes for participants. Community linkages are an essential feature of the JPET programme that enable providers to achieve outcomes for participants.

Young people in sustainable employment will no longer be eligible. Some people in sustainable employment find themselves homeless and do not have the support necessary to cope (examples can be provided). Will there be any latitude to cover this?

The aim of the JPET programme is to assist young people who require assistance to overcome the multiple non-vocational barriers that are preventing them from effective social and economic participation including education, training, employment or employment assistance. Young people already in sustainable employment are not the focus of the programme. The JPET Draft Funding Deed available on the Employment Services Purchasing website defines sustainable employment as employment that is permanent, ongoing and provides well defined opportunities for vocational experience.

Has/will any allowance be made for Indexation?

The JPET appropriation is indexed each financial year, and DEWR is notified of the JPET appropriation each year by the Department of Finance and Administration (DoFA). Details of final funding levels per participant will be included in the JPET RFT.

Why does CWC have 3 payment structures – Metro, Regional & Remote yet JPET only has 2 – Standard and Remote?

The JPET programme has a capped annual appropriation, unlike CWC which is a largely demand driven programme with a capped component. To ensure ongoing service viability and to enable recognition of higher costs involved in delivering services to remote areas within the limited resources available, the JPET programme has designated two funding levels per participant – standard and remote.

Will tendering organisations be able to specify maximum and minimum business levels for particular postcodes within an ESA?

As outlined in Section 2.7.4 of the JPET Exposure Draft, organisations bidding to deliver JPET must specify the minimum and maximum number of JPET places they will accept in an ESA. DEWR will endeavour to allocate places within this range, but reserves the right to offer a tenderer business outside this range. As described in Section 2.7.7 of the JPET Exposure Draft organisations can tender to service part or all of an ESA. Where a tenderer is bidding to service part of an ESA, the postcodes to be serviced must be identified.

Is there any flexibility with the funds allocated to JPET providers, specifically does 10% have to be allocated to Brokerage?

The JPET Funding Agreement will require that 10% of the cost per participant must be dedicated to brokerage and must be spent on direct assistance to participants. JPET providers will be required to provide evidence to DEWR for each financial year that brokerage funds have been fully expended in accordance with the Funding Agreement. Any unspent brokerage funds will be required to be repaid at the end of a financial year.

Will parts of an ESA be classified as standard and other parts remote for JPET funding?

The proposed costs per participant are outlined in the Exposure Draft. The ESAs that are classified as remote will be included in the Request for Tender.

What impact will the school leaving age have on the number of commencements JPET providers are required to make?

Providers are required to provide JPET services to the minimum number of participants they receive funding for per financial year. DEWR does not guarantee the number of referrals or participants a JPET provider will receive or the number of eligible young people in an ESA that may seek assistance from a JPET provider.

With JPET records likely to be placed on EA 2000, EA 3000 or some other system in the future, will there be a requirement to ‘dob in’ participants? This would adversely affect providers as they have built up a rapport with their clients.

No.

With the words Job Placement in the program title, is there an intention that JPET providers should be placing clients in jobs?

No.

Will there be star ratings for JPET providers?

No

If JPET clients are required to be homeless or at the risk of homelessness, how are these terms defined?

Definitions will be provided in the JPET RFT.

What evidence will be required to demonstrate homelessness?

An assessment of homelessness or at risk of homelessness is dependent on a provider's assessment of a young person's needs and barriers when determining eligibility for the programme.

Some JPET clients commence and then cease JPET participation, then need to be reactivated at a later date. Under these circumstances, does a reactivated client count as one or two commencements.

Reactivated clients only count as one commencement. However, DEWR will clarify for the RFT the minimum period between cessation and recommencement.

What happens with a client who commences late in the current contract –say 1 June 2006, would they count as a commencement in 2005-06 and then be counted again under the new contract from 1 July 2006 as another commencement?

No.

If target numbers are achieved and then exceeded, the provider will be reducing their level of income per client. This may be good in terms of outcomes but adversely affect the provider financially and affect client expenditure. Are there other implications for over achieving?

As JPET is a capped program, there is no additional funding available if extra clients are commenced. However DEWR is considering whether they may re-allocate JPET places to high demand areas or to high performing providers.

In the Quarterly payment structure, will there be any consideration of/for seasonal fluctuations?

DEWR currently anticipates that regular performance reviews and discussions with DEWR will give providers an opportunity to discuss issues such as seasonal fluctuations of commencements.

Regarding the reallocation being linked to performance management – can this change if the labour market changes?

At this stage it is linked mainly to poor performance/low commencement levels.

Current JPET Target Groups – Ex offenders, Refugees, Wards of the State will not be eligible as a category of their own?

These are part of the multiple non-vocational barriers young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness face.

Will there still be the contingency for a 5% carryover of funding?

No. All funds must be expended in the financial year in which they are paid. Unspent funding must be offset or repaid in accordance with the Funding Agreement (see clause 6.14). A copy of the draft JPET Funding Deed is available on the Employment Services Purchasing website.

Young Offenders – what about the eligibility of young offenders who have not yet been picked up by the system (and currently have no criminal record)?

JPET Exposure draft states at Section 2.3.1 that a barrier a young person may face is a 'history of committing offences or formal engagement with justice authorities'.

Can a provider spend more on brokerage than 10%?

The 10% is set as a minimum amount and services can spend more than 10% if there is a need.

What if DEWR has got it wrong? What process is in place to address this? What kind of input can a Service Provider have?

You can provide input via the JPET Working Party, which is the main consultative mechanism.

When will DEWR release the separate tender for any rural and remote business?

It is currently planned for release in January 2006.

Will you consider changing the eligibility age criteria from 21 years to 25 years?

Not at this time.

Some services cover a number of ESA's. Will we have to tender for each ESA separately?

It is currently anticipated that Organisations will be able to bid for all or part of an ESA or multiple ESAs in a LMR as they want, however tenderers will need to

following the requirements of the JPET RFT when bidding for business. Tenderers will be required to respond to Criterion 3 for each ESA separately within each LMR.

School leaving age in SA is 16 years. Is there a consideration to change the eligibility age from 15 to 16 years to meet SA school leaving age requirements?

Question in relation to school leaving age already answered and loaded on website from another session.

Is the \$1540 fee per participant paid per quarter?

The proposed payment model for JPET provides that the cost per participant is paid in quarterly blocks, with 80% is paid up front at the start of a quarter, and then a further 20% is paid at the end of the quarter based on minimum commencement targets.

When will the numbers and costs per participant be available?

JPET places by ESA and cost per participant will be released in the JPET RFT.

When will the Rural Remote Areas be announced?

The RFT planned to be released in early November will identify those ESAs being tendered in the rural/remote tender planned to be released in January 2006.

When will RFT be in available on Austender?

The RFT is planned to be released in early November

Are numbers available depending on demand?

JPET places available in each ESA will be included in the RFT.

Will ESA's be different to now?

ESAs are different to the JPET Geographic Communities used previously. DEWR has undertaken a process to map the JPET Geographic Communities to ESAs.

Will there be a RFT information session when RFT is released.

Yes

Will outcomes be social or economic outcome driven and will JPET be benchmarked?

There will be consultations about how DEWR measures social outcomes.

Will Indigenous young people be part of a specialist group?

More information about bidding for specialist business will be included in the RFT, but DEWR is not planning on specifying or designating specialist groups for JPET.

Monitoring performance- will it be in current form? Will data system measure outcomes and performance?

Some documents will be updated for the new contract period including programme guidelines and monitoring proformas. These are still being developed by DEWR. It is anticipated that the JPET programme will be moving on to the standard DEWR IT platform (EA3000) during the funding agreement period. This system will be built to record JPET outcomes in a more effective and meaningful way compared to the current JPET web-based system.

Tracking outcomes, performance current data system is inadequate.

The current JPET website data system will continue in short term with a view to moving to the standard DEWR IT platform (EA3000) during the new contract period.

Is the definition of Homelessness expected to change?

No significant changes are planned, however it is possible that some changes may occur. Definitions of homeless and at risk of homelessness will be included in the JPET RFT. Interested parties are able to make comments on how homelessness and at risk of homelessness should be defined as part of this exposure draft consultation process through the hotline, email, etc.

Is there a definition of ‘sustainable employment’?

The draft funding agreement which is available on the Employment Services Purchasing website defines sustainable employment as employment that is permanent, ongoing and provides well defined opportunities for vocational experience.

Is there a definition of remote?

The definition of remoteness is still being defined and will be released with the RFT.

How do the places released in the RFT relate to a specialist or generalist bid?

Numbers of JPET places will be released for each ESA in the RFT. Should a specialist bid be successful in its tender bid, the number of places allocated to that specialist service will be drawn from the total number of places available in the particular ESA.

Will high performing JPET providers be rolled over as part of this process?

No – all 14000 JPET places are included in this tender process.

Are services moving into a rolling funding model?

No

Does that mean that we won't have to go to tender at the end of the next contract period (2006-2009)?

No.

In the 2nd last tender process (2002) we lost half of our business as a result of the transition to ESA's.

Current JPET places are allocated on the basis of JPET Geographic Communities rather than ESAs. DEWR has mapped JPET Geographic Communities against ESAs.

Elaborate on the business reallocation process what does it mean i.e. is it rewarding strong performance?

The business re-allocation process will come in to effect from 1 July 2006 under the new Funding Agreement. DEWR may seek to reward high performing providers in the new contract period through re-allocating places from where there is low demand or poor provider performance. Business re-allocation will only occur after consultation with the affected provider/s.

How is DEWR taking into account homelessness pockets in the community?

A needs analysis is being undertaken and a range of data sources relevant to the JPET programme and target group are being analysed.

I am concerned with Employment related data applying to this group.

DEWR can not comment on the needs analysis being undertaken, but a range of data sources relevant to the JPET programme and the JPET target group are being looked at. Information will be available in the Request for Tender documentation.

Are refugee numbers being incorporated into the needs analysis?

A range of data sources are being analysed relevant to the JPET programme and JPET target group. Places available in each ESA will be released in the Request for Tender.

Does the Labour market CD have UTLAH (Unreasonable to Live at Home) Youth Allowance statistics?

The Centrelink customer populations by Allowance Type link on the CD includes information about number of Youth Allowance (Other) recipients. Young people in receipt of Unreasonable to Live at Home (UTLAH) are included in this category. There is no specific breakdown of UTLAH recipients or other sub-categories of income support payments.

Is there a proposed name change for the JPET programme?

You will note that the Exposure draft indicates that the name of the JPET programme is under review. However, the acronym of 'JPET' will remain the same.

Will the new guidelines be released?

Yes. New programme documentation will be released before the 1st July 2006 start of the new funding agreement.

When young people are using JPET for their MO, are there set hours?

The current situation is the young person must have a minimum of contact once a month with their provider.

When will we have definitive dates for the tender?

The RFT is planned to be released in early November and all other dates will be included in that document.

Can brokerage funds be carried over from one financial year to another?

No. As stated in the presentation unspent brokerage funds will be required to be repaid at the end of the financial year.

Will specialist groups be eligible for JPET in their own right, or do they have to be homeless/at risk?

No. Any specialist service seeking to assist a specific cohort of the JPET target group must make sure the young people are otherwise eligible for the JPET programme, that is they must be homeless or at risk of homelessness and facing multiple non-vocational barriers.

What makes a specialist service?

Organisations need to demonstrate the need for the specialist service in their tender proposal. Mainstream JPET services must also cater to all eligible participants.

Will young people living in disabled group homes eligible for JPET?

This depends on their status according to the JPET target group and whether they are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

How does serious family conflict fit in with the current definition of homeless or at risk of homeless?

Definitions of homeless and at risk of homelessness will be included in the RFT. These presentations are about future directions for the JPET programme, but if organisations wish to provide comment on how things like homelessness or at risk of homelessness should be defined in the future, based on current experience, that should be done through the feedback mechanisms for this process.

How will we be paid?

The draft Funding Agreement outlines that providers will be paid using a Recipient Created Tax Invoice process until such time as the JPET programme moves on to

another DEWR IT system, most likely EA3000, which will allow automatic payment processes.

Will the young people on DSP still be eligible for PES (Pensioner Education Supplement)?

Can this question be referred to an Income Support area for answer as is not within JPET programme province?

Will there be another price for specialist bids (including working with people with intellectual impairment)?

No.

Are there going to be different expectations around outreach?

There is no prescribed JPET service delivery model, and it is expected that services will maintain sites and methods of service delivery in ESAs appropriate to meet the local need.

Will we get specific posters for Tasmania that define the age as 16-21?

The JPET programme is a national one, and school leaving age varies between States and Territories. It is not envisaged that specific marketing material will be provided by DEWR to each state and territory to take in to account various school leaving ages. However DEWR may consider the wording of future marketing material to overcome the issue.

Is the JPET programme funded for commencements over the funding period, or the number of current participants that a provider has?

JPET providers are funded for a minimum number of participants they are required to commence in each financial year.

What happens if you meet target commencement requirements in the first six months?

Providers are required to continue providing services for the duration of the funding period. Providers who service additional participants above their minimum commencement level will not receive additional funding, but this may be taken into consideration in the business reallocation model.

You have mentioned Centrelink as a main source of referrals. How does Centrelink know how much capacity a provider has to accept a referral?

When referring a person to JPET, Centrelink should first call the JPET provider to ensure they can accept the referral. This will allow JPET providers to inform Centrelink of their capacity level. However, Centrelink Mutual Obligation (MO) referrals take priority. For further information on JPET and Centrelink and Mutual Obligation referrals refer to Section 2.3.4 in the JPET Exposure Draft.

How will the bundling process work and where can more information be found on which regions will have bundled services?

The RFT will detail which ESAs will be subject to different purchasing processes, such as bundling arrangements. DEWR may release a further RFT for rural/remote areas in January 2006.