

19th October 2001

Productivity Commission
Belconnen ACT 2616

Independent Review of Job Network: Submission

Dear Commissioner

Ballina Employment and Training is a not for profit community organisation. We have been operating in the northern rivers of NSW since 1989, providing employment services to jobseekers. BETC is a Registered Training Organisation and we manage two small business incubators.

JM and IA

BETC has been a member of Job Network since the beginning of ESC1. In ESC1 we operated JM and IA. In ESC2 we operate JM and JST.

In our experience it is not financially viable to operate JM as a stand alone program. In Richmond ESA we have the highest star rating and it is still not viable, even with a low cost effective operation. It is difficult to compete with other organisations who are cross subsidizing with IA and offering payments to employers for 15 hour JM placements.

The solution is to join JM and IA, with JM having a minimum number of IA allocated. OR to raise the fees for JM to enable it to stand alone financially.

JM is a very important program however it only receives a small percentage of the total JN funding. Good JM performers should be rewarded especially as overall JM targets are not being met.

Star Ratings

The system is working well, as a means for national comparisons. We are in a regional area of very high unemployment, there is a mix of high and low (star) scores. Some larger organisations are receiving high scores in other regions and low scores here, which may reflect the quality of local performance. There is no guarantee or evidence that all large organisations can consistently perform across the regions.

Qualitative ratings could be included eg client satisfaction, employer satisfaction, repaid claims etc.

Garry Bargh
General Manager