



Media Release

Senator Mathias Cormann *Shadow Minister for Employment Participation, Apprenticeships and Training*

09/1217/M

17 December 2009

RUDD LABOR FAILING LONGTERM UNEMPLOYED

The Rudd Labor government is failing long-term unemployed Australians, Employment Participation Shadow Minister Mathias Cormann said today.

Despite billions of dollars wasted in so called stimulus spending the number of long-term unemployed Australians continues to grow.

"Figures released by the ABS today reveal that the number of long-term unemployed Australians has grown by over 7,000 in the past month," Senator Cormann said.

"In two years under the Rudd Labor Government, the total number of long-term unemployed has increased from 67,100 to 103,300.

"The number of male long-term unemployed has grown to over 56,000 and the number of female long-term unemployed to almost 47,000.

"The Rudd government's \$650 million Jobs Fund has clearly failed to make a dent.

"Favouring Labor seats with funding from the Jobs Fund is clearly not an effective strategy to tackle long-term unemployment," he said.

"When Mark Arbib was first appointed Minister for Employment Participation he said that most of his job related to creating jobs from the so called stimulus package.

"Yet since the election of the Rudd Labor government in November 2007 an additional 36,000 Australians have joined the ranks of long-term unemployed.

"This comes on top of a 2.2% increase in youth unemployment, from 14% in November 2007 to 16.2% in November 2009, as well as continuous increases in the number of long-term Newstart Allowees.

"In the few months Senator Arbib has been the Minister for Employment Participation, the number of long-term Newstart Allowees has gone up from about 270,000 (July 2009) to nearly 285,000 (by the end of October 2009), and rising.

"Mark Arbib needs to start focusing on the needs of jobless Australians rather than just on supporting the jobs of Labor politicians in marginal seats," Senator Cormann said.

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