



Media Release

Senator Mathias Cormann

Shadow Minister for Employment Participation, Apprenticeships and Training

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Rudd Government arrogance to cost jobs!

The Rudd Labor Government has given a half hearted and arrogant response to an important Senate committee report into the recent job services tender according Shadow Employment Participation Minister Mathias Cormann.

The government today tabled its largely dismissive response to eight recommendations by the Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee, which had identified a raft of serious concerns about the way the Job Services Australia tender was handled.

“Taxpayer funded employment services are there to help people find jobs.

“It is critically important that the process by which around \$1.5 billion dollars in Commonwealth funding is allocated to Job Services Australia providers every year is sound.

“After considering the Senate Committee’s recommendations for six months the government effectively came back with an arrogant ‘thanks but, no thanks – we’ll keep doing it our way’.

“The Government should be doing everything possible to improve the way those taxpayer dollars are allocated in the future.

“To just ‘note’ the recommendation calling for improved communications with tenderers is just not good enough.

“The lack of proper communication with tender applicants was a major concern raised consistently during the inquiry. It clearly caused anger and unnecessary angst during last years tender.

“The Minister has outright rejected the recommendation that the design of the tender process be referred to the Productivity Commission for review.

“The Productivity Commission has a history of looking at issues around government procurement, has a clear role in helping government improve policy and in reviewing government service provision. Who would be better to provide an independent review of the design of any future tender process for Job Services Australia?

“The last Job Services Australia tender left many in the employment services industry with a seriously sour taste in their mouth. Things should not be allowed to happen that way again.

The government has to put pride aside and address some of the genuine issues that were raised during the Senate inquiry. Unless they do, we can have no confidence that Job Services Australia will be as effective as it can be and should be in finding people jobs,” Senator Cormann said.

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