



Australian Government

Department of Social Services

Senator Jonathon Duniam
Chair
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

RE: Correction of evidence to 2016-17 Supplementary Estimates Hearing on 20 October 2016.

I am writing to correct evidence I provided to the Committee during its examination of the Department of Social Services in relation to Outcome One.

In answering a question from Senator Siewert regarding the number of people that are in the students who move into working age payments priority group for the Try, Test and Learn Fund, I said that there are approximately 392,000 young people who move from student to working age payments. I would like to correct that response.

There were a total of 392,000 young people on studying payments in 2014-15. Internal DSS analysis has identified that of this group, there were 13,400 people who:

- entered student payments between 2003 and 2011 aged 17 to 19 years,
- exited student payments as a university or vocational education and training student and;
- transitioned directly to a working age payment where they stayed for more than 12 months of the next two years.

This analysis removes any young students who exited student payments as secondary school students. Of these 13,400 people, 6,600 (49 per cent) were still in the working age class at 30 June 2015.

I would also like to clarify that the 4,370 young parents I referred to in the same answer, are aged 18 or under and the baseline report I mentioned is the baseline valuation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Reddel'.

Tim Reddel
Group Manager
Policy Office

2 P November 2016