

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

#### Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000099

Senator Cameron asked on 11 February 2016 on proof Hansard page 41

#### Question

#### jobactive - six month placements

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Senator CAMERON: How many people have finished the six months?

Mr Hehir: I am not sure that we have that figure here with us. We might take that on notice.

We will be able to give you a figure. We have had some of this conversation before, and there are lots of people who commence quite quickly and leave quite quickly; there is a number of people who commence multiple times; it is just going to take us a little bit of time—

Senator CAMERON: This is why I am surprised; we have had this conversation before. You know that the opposition is interested to see the outcomes in this program. I am really surprised that you have come here and you cannot tell me or the Senate how many people have actually finished the six months and how many people are in work. This was a program trumpeted by the opposition; why can't we get those figures?

Senator Cash: I think the explanation given by the secretary is: in the majority of cases, it is just too early. At the next estimates, we will be able to provide you with those figures.

Senator CAMERON: I said that. I am not asking about the majority of cases. I am asking for those that have finished the six months.

Senator Cash: No, but the six-month period is just ticking over—literally.

Senator CAMERON: So I am saying: how many have finished the six months?

Ms Leon: I am happy to take that on notice.

Senator CAMERON: To take it on notice?

Ms Leon: Yes.

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Ms Leon: Chair, we have some of the data that Senator Cameron was asking for before the lunch break.

CHAIR: Excellent.

Ms Leon: We mentioned that there were 52,000 job seekers who commenced Work for the Dole in the first year. Some of them are still in Work for the Dole, so I cannot tell you how many of them are still in Work for the Dole and how many of them have finished it. So the data is necessarily a bit incomplete. This is of all the people who have commenced, some of whom—a figure I do not know yet—are still in Work for the Dole. But, of those, 12,256 were placed in employment. That is 23 per cent of all those who have commenced, but it is not 23 per cent of all those who have finished Work for the Dole. That will be a higher percentage. We undertake surveys of people who have exited the program. This is not counting all of the 52,000; it is just counting those who exited the program from July to September. Of the ones who had exited from Work for the Dole in that first three months of the program, 37.2 per cent were employed three months later. We always do that post-program survey three months after exit, and that is why we do not have the figure for the people who have completed the whole six months Work for the Dole, because we have not got to the three months after point. But, of those who exited in the first three months of the financial year, we

do have the post-program monitoring survey for those, and that is 37.2 per cent who were employed at the three-month point.

Mr Hehir: A useful comparison, noting it is early data still, is a comparison with those who exited training and whether they are employed, and they are at 34.4 per cent. So it is marginally higher in those who have exited Work for the Dole than training.

Ms Leon: I just want to stress with those that that is survey data, not outcomes data for all 57,000.

Senator CAMERON: So 34.4 per cent are in employment three months after they exit training. What is the definition of 'exited training'? What does that mean?

Mr Hehir: It means they have exited it. They may have finished or they may not have finished it.

Senator CAMERON: That is Work for the Dole training?

Mr Hehir: No. That is jobactive.

Ms Leon: The first figure, 37.2 per cent, was those people who exited Work for the Dole from July to September 2015.

Senator CAMERON: Why is Work for the Dole less, down at 23 per cent?

Ms Leon: No. Sorry, Senator; I have not explained that properly.

Senator CAMERON: Are you saying they are at 37.2?

Ms Leon: These are two different types of measurement, and the context for that is that our post-program monitoring surveys ask people three months after they have exited the program, 'What are you doing now?'—are they back on our case load; are they in full-time education; have they got a job?

So it is one of the ways that we monitor the impact of the whole program, jobactive, on the people who go through it. That is not the same as being able to measure the impacts by every single job seeker, because it is a survey. But it is a fairly big survey, and we send it to everyone who exits, and we get a reasonable response rate. So it is one of the measures we use throughout the program to monitor its performance. From survey data, the figure about people who did Work for the Dole between July and September and exited Work for the Dole—so they did not need to do the whole six months—and were in employment three months later was 37.2 per cent.

For the other figure that I gave, which is 23 per cent, I have a caveat on that percentage, because it is 23 per cent of all the people who have commenced Work for the Dole in the first six months of the year, not 23 per cent of all of those who finished it. There would still be a lot of them who are still in Work for the Dole, so I do not have a 23 per cent—

Senator CAMERON: So that 23 per cent will not go backwards. It would only go up.

Ms Leon: It has to go up, yes. But 23 per cent of the nearly 53,000 who commenced Work for the Dole have been placed in employment. That is not survey data; that is based on us having paid an outcome fee to a provider. So that is more comprehensive data, but it is 23 per cent of commencements, not 23 per cent of completions.

Senator CAMERON: Because the 37.2 per cent is only over a 12-week period, you are saying that you cannot rely on that?

Ms Leon: It is not that you cannot rely on it; it is just that it is not measuring all 57,000. It is only measuring the people who exited the program for the first three months of the financial year.

Senator CAMERON: I have got that.

Ms Leon: But the data will get more complete once the thing has been running for a year, because then there will have been time for a sizeable number to complete Work for the Dole and to have been registered as to what they were doing three months later.

## **Answer**

Data is not yet available on the number of job seekers who have completed Work for the Dole.