

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW0942_11

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

**EARLY ACCESS TO STREAM 2 JOB SEEKERS FOR PEOPLE RETRENCHED
DUE TO THE FINANCIAL CRISIS.**

1. What has been the impact of this policy reform? How many people benefited from this policy since it was introduced in 2009? 2. How has this measure been evaluated? If there has been a review or evaluation, please table it. 3. What has been the cost of this change to date? 4. Has there been any consideration of extending these measures beyond July 2011? 5. Can you explain how circumstances have changed for retrenched job-seekers between March 2009 and July 2011? 6. What are the comparative differences in costs between earlier and later access to Stream 2? What are the comparative outcomes in terms of time unemployed for those who gain early access?

Answer

1. This measure provided employment support for workers who lost their jobs during the global recession. As at 14 March 2011, there have been 280,464 job seekers register as redundant workers under the measure since it was introduced on 24 February 2009.

2. This measure is being evaluated as part of the evaluation of the Jobs and Training Compact. The evaluation is due to report later this year. The evaluation strategy can be accessed on the department's internet site.

3. The total cost of this measure (as at 14 March 2011) is \$347.8 million

4. The Early Access measure ceased on 31 December 2010.

The Job Transition Support measure was extended to allow redundant mature age workers (aged 50 years and over) who are living or working in a Priority Employment Area to continue to be eligible for this level of support from 1 January 2011, following the closure of the Early Access measure.

5. Any workers made redundant between 24 February 2009 and 31 December 2010 were eligible for immediate access to employment support with a Job Services Australia provider at the Stream 2 level. From 1 January 2011, redundant workers are eligible for employment services based on their assessed level of need and personal circumstances.

6. There is no difference between the cost of providing earlier and later access to

Stream 2 for eligible job seekers. Redundant workers may otherwise face a waiting period before becoming eligible for similar assistance.

It is not possible to assess comparative outcomes in terms of time unemployed for those provided with early access. Such analysis would require comparison between the outcomes of redundant workers who had early access to Stream 2 and another cohort who did not have early access. There is no other redundant worker cohort on which to base a comparison.