

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

**Outcome 3 - Employment**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0868\_13

**Senator Sinodinos provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Wage Connect Subsidy**

Wage Connect Subsidy 1. How many applications were made for the Wage Connect subsidies from the recent round that closed on the 31st January, 2013? 2. Was it fully subscribed? 3. How much will be available for the next round? 4. When were providers advised that Wage Connect subsidies had in effect 'run out'? 5. Of the Wage Connect subsidies that have been paid to date, how many of the recipients are still in employment? 6. What has been the average duration of employment for these recipients? 7. What is the maximum percentage of a wage that the Wage Connect subsidy can fund?

**Answer**

1. How many applications were made for the Wage Connect subsidies from the recent round that closed on the 31st January, 2013?

Between 1 January 2012 and 31 January 2013, over 15,100 Wage Connect job placements were recorded by Employment Services Providers.

2. Was it fully subscribed?

Yes.

3. How much will be available for the next round?

The next round of Wage Connect will provide for a further 10,000 placements in 2013-14.

4. When were providers advised that Wage Connect subsidies had in effect 'run out'?

Employment Services Providers were advised on 24 January 2013 that Wage Connect would be paused from 5:00 pm on 31 January 2013. The timing allowed negotiations that had commenced between job seekers and employers to be completed and agreements finalised in DEEWR's IT system.

5. Of the Wage Connect subsidies that have been paid to date, how many of the recipients are still in employment?

As at 2 February 2013 of the 15,100 commencements since the beginning of the initiative, 8,084 Wage Connect participants could have received a 26 week outcome, of these 3,779 did, showing they were still in employment. A further 6,144, yet to reach 26 weeks, were still in employment in active placements.

6. What has been the average duration of employment for these recipients?

As Wage Connect participants are in ongoing employment, it is not possible to determine the time which participants remain in their current job after reaching a 26 week outcome.

7. What is the maximum percentage of a wage that the Wage Connect subsidy can fund?

Wage Connect pays up to \$5 900 for each job placement, or around \$230 each week (pre GST), to cover the costs of wages and training.