

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2005-2006 BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
30 ,31 MAY and 3 JUNE 2005**

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 1: Efficient and effective labour market assistance

Output Group: 1.2 Labour market programme management and delivery

Outputs: 1.2.2 Employment Services

Question Number: W180-06

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing:

Please outline the details of expenditure on wage subsidies through Job Seeker Account – including, separately, average expenditure and maximum expenditure. Please detail the employment outcomes achieved using such wage subsidies, including at 13 weeks and 26 weeks.

Answer:

Since the introduction of the Job Seeker Account in July 2003 to 31 March 2005:

- The total expenditure on wage subsidies is approximately \$73.7m, that is, nearly 20% of total Job Seeker Account expenditure.
- The average expenditure on wage subsidies per job seeker was \$2,352.
- The maximum wage subsidy for a job seeker was approximately \$26,000 for a long term unemployed Indigenous job seeker in regional Australia who has previously had a number of unemployment periods. As at 18 July 2005, this job seeker remained off benefit nearly one year after the placement commenced.

From 1 July 2003 to 31 March 2005, of those job seekers who were placed into employment with wage subsidy assistance from the Job Seeker Account 59% achieved an interim outcome (13 weeks). 67% of the job seekers that achieved an interim outcome, then went on to achieve a final outcome (26 weeks).

It should be noted that job seekers may receive a range of assistance funded by the Job Seeker Account from multiple categories, including wage subsidies and that it may be the combination of assistance, rather than expenditure in a specific category that contributes to individual job seekers gaining employment.