

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

**Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0331\_12**

**Senator Abetz asked on 31/05/2011, Hansard page 31.**

**Question**

**Work For The Dole - Breakdown And Number Of Projects Including  
Qualification Levels**

Senator ABETZ: I did ask about currently being offered so why don't I rephrase the question so we get it absolutely clear. Of the 9360 individuals who are currently undertaking a work activity, how many projects does that represent? Ms Parker: We will take it on notice. The current Work for the Dole locations, and as Ms Laker said, one location can be across an activity, if you know what I mean. It is 16,054. We will take on notice— Senator ABETZ: Work for the Dole locations, there are 16,000, but we have only got 9000 participants. We have got work for the dole locations where clearly there is no participant. Ms Paul: As Ms Laker said, the comparator is with 57,000 placements in Work for the Dole since the start of JSA, that is the 16,000, that is the basic; it does not answer your question. Senator ABETZ: No. Ms Paul: I take that on notice. Senator ABETZ: If you could, and then you can tell us what I assume will be a substantially smaller figure than that 16,000 figure— Ms Paul: That is right. Senator ABETZ: and then divide that into state and territories. Senator Chris Evans: I am happy to get the department to give you a broad brief on breakdown of projects, numbers, current and cumulative, and state-by-state. I think you want to understand the whole complexity. Rather than take individual questions on those, I am happy to do that, but we will provide you with a complete breakdown of Work for the Dole, if you like. Senator ABETZ: With that, if you can provide us with the current type of activities that are on offer. Ms Paul: Sure. Senator ABETZ: How many activities offer a certificate level qualification as a component of the project? Ms Paul: We will take that on notice but it is important to try to pull out some statistics on training across the board, because, of course, work experience as a category now, as we were saying before, has a wide sweep of possibilities in it, including training, and Work for the Dole is just one. We will do it across the board and work— Senator ABETZ: That is right, but in Work for the Dole activities— Ms Paul: Yes, we will do that.

**Answer**

**Breakdown of Work for the Dole.**

Refer to [Attachment A](#) for the breakdown of Work for the Dole.

### **What are the current types of activities that are on offer?**

The types of tasks and associated skills and experience that job seekers undertake in Work for the Dole vary depending on the activity created by the Job Services Australia provider and reflecting the needs of individual job seekers.

Commonly, activities include: computing, office or retail, customer service, landscaping or gardening, woodworking, painting, decorating, metalworking, restoring historic buildings and hospitality.

We are unable to provide a cumulative breakdown of Work for the Dole projects as this information would have to be derived from several thousand free-text fields of information, as entered by providers. This information would also take considerable time to quality assure and the department considers that this would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

### **How many Work for the Dole activities offered a certificate level qualification?**

Job Services Australia providers are able to tailor structured training within a Work for the Dole activity to the individual needs of the job seeker which can include components of a certificate level course. Additionally, job seekers can participate in a combination of education and training and Work for the Dole Activities to meet their Work Experience Activity Requirement.

Refer to [Attachment A](#) for data on Education and Training as a Work Experience Activity type.