

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012–2013**

Outcome 3 - Employment

DEEWR Question No. EW0541_13

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

Young Mothers Program

Young mothers program, 1 January 2012. (i) How many young parents reside in each of the 10 locations that are part of the Building Australia's Future Workforce initiative that started on 1 January 2012? (ii) What have been the outcomes for parents' participation in all of these locations? (iii) How many parents have had their payment suspended under these arrangements?

Answer

(i) The following table provides the projected parent numbers by location for the Helping Young Parents measure over the 3.5 years of the trial.

LGA	Total projected number of teenage parents over 3.5 years
Playford	663
Rockhampton	514
Hume	268
Burnie	122
Bankstown	225
Wyong	514
Logan	1111
Kwinana	208
Greater Shepparton	254
Shellharbour	214
Total	4093

(ii) As at 30 September 2012, parent outcomes in the 10 locations are as follows.

- 681 young parents have a current signed Participation Plan containing:
 - 669 education activities
 - 634 early childhood and early learning activities
 - 201 parenting activities.

- Parents are actively engaging in services in their local areas, including early childhood, family and parenting services. They are also engaging in a range of education activities such as participation in Youth Connections, or enrolment in a school or TAFE.
- 70 young parents who have a Year 12 or equivalent qualification are volunteering to remain in the measure to access the services.
- It is too early in the trial to report on the number of parents who have obtained a qualification through the measure.

(iii) As at 30 September 2012:

- 252 suspensions were applied to 207 parents for failing to attend scheduled Department of Human Services interviews without a reasonable excuse.
- Two parents had suspensions for failing to sign a Participation Plan.
- Seven parents still had a Parenting Payment suspension applied.

The most common duration of suspension was for a period of 11–15 days and the average length of suspension was approximately nine days.