

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

### BUDGET ESTIMATES – 5-6 JUNE 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Department of Human Services

**Topic:** Number of Newstart Allowance recipients by electorate and Service Zone / Service Centre

**Question reference number:** HS 31

**Senator:** Cameron

**Type of question:** Hansard page 14, 6 June 2014

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 25 July 2014

**Number of pages:** 2

#### **Question:**

Ms Rule: So for example, at the moment there are around 695,000 people on Newstart allowance.

Senator CAMERON: There are 695,000 on Newstart? And there would be more people on Newstart in Penrith than there would be in the northern suburbs of Sydney?

Ms Campbell: We do not have the profile with us at the moment and—

Senator CAMERON: You do not have to have a profile. You would know these things, would you not?

Ms Campbell: We have officers in locations where we are likely to have costumers.

Senator CAMERON: There is likely to be more people forced onto work for the dole in Penrith, Mount Druitt and the western suburbs than there would be in the northern suburbs of Sydney, would there not?

Ms Campbell: We do not have with us the actual locations. We can talk to you about global numbers of people likely to be accessing Newstart allowance.

Senator CAMERON: So why can you not just tell me the obvious in these things? No, you cannot do that?

Ms Campbell: You are asking for actual numbers of unemployed people.

Senator CAMERON: No, I am asking you in broad terms. I am simply saying that you would have to focus your work on this referral process more in the western suburbs of Sydney than you would in the Prime Minister's seat or the Treasurer's seat, would you not?

Ms Campbell: We look through the entire country of where we are likely to have need for customer services. That is where we put our officers and that is where we allocate staff to. Unfortunately, I do not have with me the profile of where we expect unemployed people, the actual numbers, in different locations around Australia.

Senator CAMERON: Why have you not got it with you?

Ms Campbell: Well I do not have it and I will take it on notice.

**Answer:**

The Newstart population profile by job seekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) by Service Zone and Service Centre is available through the 'Labour Market and Related Payments - a monthly profile' publication. This publication is publicly available on the Department of Social Services website at:

<http://www.dss.gov.au/about-the-department/labour-market-and-related-payments-monthly-profile-publications>

This publication presents statistical information on a monthly basis for the various types of labour market payments delivered by the Department of Human Services on behalf of the Department of Social Services.

Information relating to the number of customers by payment type and federal electorate is also publicly available at:

<https://data.gov.au/dataset/electorate-data/resource/8b1a8399-a6b2-4f16-93b9-139182f344aa>