

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

2014 - 2015

Department/Agency: Treasury

Question: AET 11

Topic: Labour Market

Reference: Hansard page no. 31 - 25 February 2015

Senator: Wong, Penny

Question:

Senator Cormann: You have got your answer, Senator Wong.

Senator WONG: I did have some questions about youth unemployment. Are they best done in this area?

Ms Wilkinson: Perhaps if you ask the questions and we can see whether we can help you.

Senator WONG: In the statement of monetary policy the RBA made some somewhat worrying conclusions about youth unemployment, referencing its sensitivity to the business cycle, referencing the increase in youth unemployment. Can you perhaps give us some observations about the performance of the youth labour market and the factors which are contributing to the scale of youth unemployment?

Ms Wilkinson: I think I will have to take that question on notice. The youth unemployment rate was 14.2 per cent in January.

Senator WONG: Correct, a one and a bit per cent increase.

Ms Wilkinson: I do not have the previous number. The previous peak in November 2014 was 14.6 per cent, so it is about that level. I will have to take questions on notice in terms of a drop.

Senator WONG: The duration of unemployment for 20 to 24-year-olds obviously, statistically, would be increasing too. No?

Ms Wilkinson: I do not have that information.

Answer:

The youth unemployment rate for 15 to 24-year-olds was 13.9 per cent in February 2015, down from the revised peak of 14.5 per cent in November 2014. Of this, around half are engaged in full-time education.

The duration of unemployment is a volatile series that is only available in original terms. The 12 month rolling average duration of unemployment for 20 to 24-year olds rose between mid-2008 and mid-2014.