

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000044

Senator Xenophon provided in writing.

Question

Job seeker Excel training courses

In responses to Questions on Notice from Supplementary Budget Estimates in 2014, the Department advised that it does not keep records of the number of job seekers who successfully completed training courses offered by Excel Training.

1. Why doesn't the Department record this information?
2. Are success rates for training courses offered by other training providers recorded by the Department? If not, why not?

Answer

1. Under the Employment Services Deed 2012–15 (clause 57A.1) and related Guidelines there is no requirement for JSA providers to record or retain information relating to a job seeker's completion of a training course.

The exception to this is where the JSA provider is claiming an Education Outcome payment. In these circumstances the department requires a Provider to retain and submit on request, documentary evidence as follows:

- Documentation from a training institution or the job seeker which demonstrates the successful completion of a semester of full-time study. The evidence must confirm:
 - whether the course was full-time or part-time
 - the contact hours attended each week
 - the Semester start and end dates
 - the length of the course
 - the name of the JSA Provider's staff member recording the above information at the time it was obtained.

This requirement is consistent with the department's programme assurance framework and methodology which is underpinned by desktop monitoring and audit activity.

In the 2015-16 Budget (under the 'Engaging Early School Leavers' measure) Education Outcomes were changed effective from 1 January 2016. The change extends Education Outcomes for job seekers up to 21 years of age. The qualification for an Education Outcome has also been raised to Year 12 or a Certificate III.

All jobactive providers will be required to upload documentary evidence of completion or attainment of the relevant qualification at the time of lodgement of their claims.

2. Success rates are not recorded as this is not required under the current Employment Services Deed 2012–15 or related Guidelines. The Labour Market Assistance Outcome report for September 2014 shows that 28.3 per cent of job seekers were employed after leaving a vocational training course.