

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000047

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

Work for the Dole

1. From 1 July 2014, a new Work for the Dole program was phased into 18 areas across the country. How many people have commenced the Work for the Dole program as a condition of receiving income support to date?
2. How much has the department spent administering the scheme, and how many participants are there currently?
3. How much has the department spent administering the work for the dole scheme for each participant?

Answer

1. From 1 July 2014 to 31 January 2015, there were 13,949 commencements in Work for the Dole 2014–15 under the phasing arrangements across the 18 Selected Areas, relating to 10,621 individual eligible job seekers.
2. As at 31 January 2015 \$8,211,540 in administered funds has been spent on Work for the Dole 2014–15 in selected areas. This includes \$5,432,525 drawn down from the Employment Pathway Fund by Job Services Australia providers to fund Work for the Dole 2014–15 activities under the phasing arrangements across the 18 Selected Areas, from 1 July 2014 to 31 January 2015.

As at 31 January 2015, of the eligible job seekers who had commenced, there were 7,031 job seekers in a Work for the Dole 2014–15 activity.

3. As at 31 January 2015, the total cost per job seeker commencement for Work for the Dole 2014–15 in selected areas relating to administered funds was \$589.