

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000052

Senator Cameron asked on 11 February 2016 on proof Hansard page 70

Question

Volunteers exiting jobactive

Senator CAMERON: How many volunteer job seekers have been impacted by the government's 2014 budget measure to restrict access to Job Active to one occasion of up to six months?

Mr Hehir: That is actually quite difficult to determine. There were a number of people who had been there as a volunteer who exited from the program at transition, and we can give you that figure. However, there are currently 10½ thousand volunteers accessing the service.

Senator CAMERON: But that does not tell me how many are being impacted by the budget measure, does it?

Mr Hehir: No.

Senator CAMERON: Do you know?

Mr Hehir: We know how many people have exited from the program.

Senator CAMERON: Do you know how many have exited in particular because of the budget measure? Do you have that figure?

Mr Hehir: I will need to take that on notice.

Answer

The 2014–15 budget measure '*One Period of Participation for non-activity Tested Volunteers*' operated in the final year of the Job Services Australia programme. 7,926 job seekers were impacted over the 2014–2015 Financial Year.

Job seekers in these circumstances were only able to access assistance through Job Services Australia again if their circumstances changed so that they were no longer non-activity tested volunteers.