

## **Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000082**

**Senator Cameron asked on 11 February 2016 on proof Hansard page 64**

#### **Question**

##### **Work for the Dole - regions without enough work**

Senator CAMERON: Are there any employment regions that have been unable to source enough work for the dole placements to meet jobseeker demand?

Ms Milliken: Work for the dole is one of the options, as the Secretary and Mr Hehir were saying. If work for the dole is not available in a locality, then the jobactive provider can work with the jobseeker to look at the alternative options for them to undertake like training or part-time—

Ms Milliken: We will take that—

Senator CAMERON: That is fine, but what I asking is are there any employment regions that have been unable to source enough work for the dole placements to meet jobseeker demands? It is a simple question.

Mr Hehir: There are a small number of regions that have struggled to meet their target where the number of placements have come close to filling. I would need to check whether there has been a small number where they were not able to achieve. There will be local variation even within a region. The 51 employment regions are quite large in some areas so in a town there may not have been sufficient work-for-the-dole places compared with a town an hour or two hours away. I would like to take a look at the data before I answer that in full.

Senator CAMERON: You will take that on notice?

Mr Hehir: Yes.

Senator CAMERON: Can you also provide details of the regions it has not been able to meet, and by how many?

Mr Hehir: Yes, we can provide that information.

#### **Answer**

Whilst there were seven Employment Regions where fewer Work for the Dole places were sourced than were estimated to be required over the period 1 July to 31 December 2015, there were sufficient places across the 51 regions to satisfy demand. Nationally, around 67,000 places were sourced, and 68 per cent of these places had been utilised at the time of reporting.

Across the seven Employment Regions where the estimated number of places required was not achieved, approximately 62 percent of the available places were utilised.