

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000106

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Question

jobactive volunteers

1. How many volunteer job seekers have, so far, been impacted by the Government's 2014 Budget measure to restrict access to Jobactive to one occasion of up to six months?
2. How many volunteer job seekers do you expect to be impacted each year in the future?
3. Have you received any complaints from volunteer job seekers who wanted to continue to engage in Jobactive, but were prevented because of these measures?
4. When this Budget measure was announced, the Government said it would achieve savings of \$52.5 million over four years. What savings have been achieved so far?

Answer

1. The 2014–2015 budget measure '*One Period of Participation for non-activity Tested Volunteers*' operated in the final year of the Job Services Australia programme. 7,926 jobseekers were impacted over the 2014–2015 Financial Year.
2. It was estimated that the budget measure would have impacted approximately 7,500 jobseekers in each financial year to 2018. However, this measure only operated during the final 12 months of the Job Services Australia programme.
3. The Department's National Customer Service Line responded to 128 complaints from jobseekers that were impacted by the implementation of the budget measure.
4. Of the 7,926 jobseekers that were impacted by the budget measure, 6,402 did not return to Job Services Australia. The estimated saving for the 2014–2015 financial year was \$5.4m and the actual saving for the year was \$4.6m. The measure was wholly subsumed into jobactive on 1 July 2015.