

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000128

Senator Lines asked in writing

Question

Youth Employment Strategy

Around 9 months ago, as part of the 2015-16 Budget you announced a \$330 million Youth Employment Strategy.

Can the Department detail what of the \$330 million package has been expended to date, and on what?

The Government said in October that Transition to Work services will commence on 1 January 2016 and all Transition to Work services would be up and running between January and April. How many are currently up and running? How many job seekers have received support so far?

Can the Department detail the progress of the \$14 million Early School Leaver policy?

Can the Department detail what support has been provided to young people under the \$106 million intensive support for key groups of vulnerable job seekers, since it was announced?

Answer

Youth Employment Strategy Funding

The Youth Employment Strategy has the following components:

Transition to Work Services

- As of 21 March 2016, 23 providers have commenced services in 27 employment regions and been paid \$2,335,560 (GST inclusive).
- As of 21 March 2016, 3441 young people have been referred to Transition to Work and of those, 887 are receiving support.
- Remaining providers will commence in April 2016.

Engaging Early School Leavers measure

- The Engaging Early School Leavers measure commenced on 1 January 2016.
- Funding for the Engaging Early School Leaver measure is for additional education outcomes. A \$1000 payment will be made to jobactive providers when an early school leaver aged 15-21 years old achieves Year 12 or Certificate III. It will take time for young people to achieve these education outcomes and as yet there have been no payments to providers.

Intensive Support for Vulnerable Young People

The \$106 million for intensive support for key groups of vulnerable job seekers has four elements:

- Empowering YOUTh Initiatives
 - The first round of funding for Empowering YOUTh Initiatives will commence from late March 2016.
- ParentsNext programme
 - The ParentsNext programme will commence on 4 April 2016.

- Transition Support for Young Refugees and Migrants pilot measure [Department of Social Security measure]
 - The \$22.1 million Transition Support for Young Refugees and Migrants pilot measure commenced on 1 January 2016 and runs until 30 June 2017. All available funds have been allocated to service providers through a grant selection process. The measure will be subject to an independent evaluation.
- Disability Employment Services (DES) Youth Mental Health Trial [Department of Social Security measure]
 - The DES Youth Mental Health trial commenced on 17 August 2015, with \$1 million of administered funding available in 2015-16. As at 23 February 2016, 189 trial participants have been provided with access to a \$5,000 'Career Account' to invest in their choice of goods and services to help them overcome barriers to employment. The administered spend for the operation of the trial is currently \$945,000.
 - An evaluation of the trial (valued at \$92,466) has also commenced, with administered funding of \$27,739.80 expended to date.
 - A range of training materials and services (valued at \$276,000) is also being developed to provide access to training to all DES providers across Australia to understand and address the needs of young job seekers with a mental health condition. To date, approximately \$10,000 in administered funding has been spent on the training package, with the majority of funding to be expended on delivery of the training once the development of the package is completed.
- Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Trial [Department of Social Security measure]
 - The IPS Trial has funding of up to \$16.75 million for up to four years to undertake a national trial of the IPS model for young people with mental illness.
 - The trial will target vulnerable young people up to the age of 25 with mental illness, who are at risk of disengaging from education and are at risk of long-term welfare dependency. Once fully implemented, the trial will support more than 2,000 young people with mental illness a year, to address their educational or employment goals.
 - The trial will be implemented progressively in up to 15 specialised youth mental health services nationally. The trial is scheduled to commence in 2016 and there has been no expenditure to date.