

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**  
**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

**Outcome 1 - Employment**

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000153**

**Senator Siewert provided in writing.**

Relates to previous Employment Question No EMSQ15-000412

**Question**

**Update to EMSQ15-000412 - Work for the Dole placements**

Please provide updates to the following QoNs from Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015-16 using the latest available data/period: EMSQ15-000412

**Answer**

There were 52,904 individual job seekers that commenced in Work for the Dole activities from 1 July to 31 December 2015. Where a job seeker commenced in a Work for the Dole place more than once and had a different stream or age for those commencements, the status at their most recent referral is used.

Table 1 provides a breakdown of these commencements by Stream, Table 2 by age and Table 3 by unemployment duration.

**Table 1: Work for the Dole job seekers by Stream – 1 July 2015 to 31 December 2015**

<b>Stream</b>	<b>Job seekers</b>
<b>Stream A</b>	25,615
<b>Stream B</b>	15,850
<b>Stream C</b>	11,434
<b>Stream Not Determined</b>	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,904</b>

**Table 2: Work for the Dole job seekers by age – 1 July 2015 to 31 December 2015**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Job seekers</b>
<b>Under 30 years</b>	20,991
<b>30 or over</b>	31,913
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,904</b>

**Table 3: Work for the Dole job seekers by unemployment duration\* – 1 July 2015 to 31 December 2015**

<b>Length of unemployment</b>	<b>Job seekers</b>
<b>Less than 6 Months</b>	243
<b>6 to 12 months</b>	4,562
<b>12 Months or Over</b>	48,099
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,904</b>

\*Unemployment duration refers to the time job seekers have been registered with Department of Human Services as looking for work. Data is based on the job seekers unemployment duration at the date they were referred to a Work for the Dole activity.

With the exception of a small number of job seekers, the 243 who commenced a Work for the Dole placement that have been registered as unemployed for less than six months have had more than six months of employment assistance. At some point these job seekers have had their unemployment start date reset while in assistance. The remainder volunteered to participate in Work for the Dole.

Table 4 provides the breakdown of Work for the Dole placements (commencements) by Group or individually hosted.

**Table 4: Group based and individual commencements from 1 July to 31 December 2015**

<b>Group based</b>	36,163	58%
<b>Individual</b>	26,461	42%
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,624</b>	<b>100%</b>

The figures in this table are commencements and not individual job seekers as in tables 1, 2 and 3.

#### **Not for profit and for profit sectors**

Work for the Dole Places cannot be undertaken in a for-profit organisation except in very limited circumstances (e.g. during a natural disaster). In the period 1 July to 31 December 2015, 100 percent of Work for the Dole places were undertaken in not-for-profit organisations.

#### **The type of work performed**

Obtaining this information would cause an unreasonable diversion of Departmental resources.

#### **Number of hours per week required**

Of the 62,624 commencements, 38,321 (61.2 per cent) were in places with a duration of 25 hours per week, 23,802 (38.0 per cent) were in places with a duration of 15 hours, and 501 (0.8 per cent) were in places with a duration of between more than 15 and less than 25 hours a week.

#### **Job Seeker Compliance penalties**

Between 1 July and 30 September 2015, there were 11,151 'no show no-pay' failures applied to jobactive job seekers with mutual obligation requirements for failing to attend activities specified in their Job Plan, some 8,742 (or 78 per cent) of which related to Work For the Dole.

#### **Expenditure**

From 1 July to 31 December 2015, expenditure on the Work for the Dole programme was \$95,260,000. This comprises \$80,550,000 paid to jobactive providers and \$14,710,000 to Work for the Dole Coordinators.