

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 3 - Employment

DEEWR Question No. EW0140_14

Senator Back asked on 4 June 2013, Hansard page 50

Question

DES- employed working hours per week

Senator BACK: Of those who are employed, would you have any idea of the percentage who are working for more than 15 hours a week? Ms Buffinton: I can probably do this in two ways. I can give you an idea of the case load that we have. Future work capacity is what the employment services assessment assesses. When you come in for your assessment, it is not about what you are able to work on now. In the course of service in DES, as you may be rehabilitating or getting skills, we are looking at your future work capacity with intervention. This is before we start to put you through the program. If we take DES in total, we have got about 25 per cent with a work capacity of eight hours, 58 per cent with a work capacity of 15 hours and 15 per cent with a work capacity of 30 hours. I would have to take it on notice to give you the actual employment. Senator BACK: I would appreciate that. If possible, I would also like to get an understanding of the percentage who are still claiming a partial rate of DSP. Ms Buffinton: I will see if we can get that. With the changes, you can work up to 30 hours depending on the level of income paid. I think it would be fair to say that a high proportion of our DSP claimants would be getting partial DSP. But that would be best answered by our FaHCSIA colleagues.

Answer

As at 31 March 2013, there were 379 participants in the Disability Employment Services program who were in receipt of the Disability Support Pension and who had a work capacity of over 15 hours per week. Of these, 138 are employed and 86 (or 62 per cent) of these are claiming partial rate of the Disability Support Pension.