

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000090

Senator Siewert asked on 01 June 2015 on proof Hansard page 71

Question

Employment programs

Senator SIEWERT: I am conscious of time. I might ask these on notice. I really want to know what part of the process worked. What initiatives worked? What is the learning that you are going to be carrying on with in the new trial process from April next year? I presume this is going to be learning from that and refining it going into a new process. Is that correct? Could you take on notice what the new one is going to look like and what you have learned from this process? Thank you.

Answer

Impact analysis of the existing Helping Young Parents and Supporting Jobless Families trials showed the following positive outcomes:

- Teenage parents who participated in the Helping Young Parents trial (HYP) had a 30 percentage point higher chance of participating in education (compared to a non-participating, matched control group) and a 14 percentage point higher chance of attaining a year 12 or equivalent qualification.
- The first 12 months of participation in the Supporting Jobless Families trial (SJF) improved the chance of engaging in work, study or work-related activities by 3 percentage points.
- Both trials had a positive impact on the use of childcare services, with participants showing a 13 percentage points and 2 percentage points increase for the HYP and SJF trials respectively.

Anecdotal evidence gathered during the Department's visits to the 10 sites also showed that participation in the trials had a positive impact on the parents' views on becoming dependent on welfare. Officers from the Department of Human Services (DHS) reported that parents participating in the trials showed a positive increase in their engagement with DHS. They also had an increased interest in engaging with local services following the development of a participation plan tailored to their own and their families' needs.

The success of these trials can be attributed to the compulsory requirements of the HYP trial and the beneficial activity and interview elements of both the HYP and SJF trials.