

## **Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

#### **Outcome 1 - Employment**

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000093**

**Senator Cameron asked on 01 June 2015 on proof Hansard page 76**

#### **Question**

##### **Work for the Dole - statistical analysis**

Senator CAMERON: Can anyone on notice give us some indication? You say 25 per cent here and 18 per cent for Work for the Dole. Ms Leon is saying it is not necessarily the same cohort.

Ms Leon: That is right.

Senator CAMERON: Can you provide details as to whether it is the same cohort or what the differences are? Why are we getting a 25 per cent success rate for work experience and why is Work for the Dole less?

Ms Leon: Amongst the things that come to mind is that people going into work experience often will be quite job ready. That is how they have got themselves into work experience. They are already pretty job ready. People who have been doing Work for the Dole in the past were, by definition, almost unemployed. So there is already a natural difference between them. But we will have a look and see what more we might be able to provide on this.

Senator CAMERON: I would like to get on notice some statistical analysis between the two programs, if that is possible.

#### **Answer**

Work for the Dole participants are more likely to be long-term unemployed compared to those undertaking Unpaid Work Experience. Analysis shows that 91 per cent of job seekers who have been placed in Work for the Dole up until 31 March 2015, were long term unemployed job seekers. In comparison, only 60 per cent of job seekers who participated in Unpaid Work Experience were long term unemployed. This contributes to lower reported employment outcomes for Work for the Dole when compared to other activities.