

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000788

Senator Cameron asked on 06 May 2016 on proof Hansard page 48

Question

Length of employment following Work for the Dole participation

Senator CAMERON: Do you carry any figures, if people go into part-time or full-time employment, how long they stay in that employment?

Mr Hehir: We do post-program monitoring at particular points. We have also done some evaluation. I would need to check whether that was a broad evaluation or just for the subsidy work.

Ms Leon: And Senator, did you mean how many people do that after Work for the Dole, or just in general?

Senator CAMERON: After Work for the Dole.

Mr Hehir: We do have conversion rates, but they stop at the 26-week mark. We do not track our data beyond that, but I can check to see whether we have done evaluations.

Senator CAMERON: Yes, and if that is all the evaluations you do, is there any reason it is 26 weeks and then stops, or some value for government to have the analysis of—

Ms Leon: There are two reasons for it. One is that the administrative data covers the final outcome payment, which is paid at 26 weeks, but that is because our research tells us that if a job has been sustained up to that period then there is a very high likelihood that it will continue to be sustained.

Senator CAMERON: Perhaps you could take on notice to provide that detail to me.

Mr Hehir: Yes.

Senator CAMERON: And could you also on notice provide a reasoning for why you cannot go past 26 weeks and if going past 26 weeks would provide some useful statistical analysis?

Mr Hehir: We can have a look at that.

Answer

Refer to EMSQ16-000787 for information on the results from the Post Program Monitoring survey in regards to Work for the Dole participants who reported full time or part time employment.

The department carries out evaluations of employment services, which look at job seeker outcomes beyond 26 weeks. Off income support is used as a proxy for employment in the evaluation since the exact labour market activity of job seekers is unknown once they have exited from the employment service system.

The evaluation of jobactive will examine job seeker outcomes beyond 26 weeks including those who participate in Work for the Dole, but the program has been going for just over 12 months and there is not sufficient data on 12 month outcomes yet.