

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-004038

Senator Kakoschke-Moore asked on 29 May 2017 on proof Hansard page 34

Question

Job seekers referred to drug and alcohol treatment by jobactive providers

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: In terms of the statistics that you hold, would you have on file somewhere the number of jobseekers in each state—and in particular I am interested in South Australia—who have been referred for drug and alcohol treatment by the jobactive provider? If you do not have it now, I can get it on notice.

Mr Hehir: It may not break down to that level. Drug and alcohol treatment comes under the heading of 'professional services'. That is quite a broad range. I think it is our second highest level of expenditure within the fund, but there are a range of things that can be undertaken within the professional services category. I would need to check whether we have a subcategory in the system, but I do not think we do.

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: So you could not say how many people in each state and territory have been referred for treatment as part of an approved activity?

Mr Hehir: Not as part of an approved activity.

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: Even just in general? I am just wondering how you came up with your estimated figures about the number of people who would be seeking help.

Mr Hehir: We would need to check how the provider has actually reported it. If they have said 'psychologist or counselling' we may not have a degree of depth around what that counselling could be. It could be a range of factors. We can have a look and see what information we get on stream C, where they are able to use it as part of their approved activity. So we might have more information there. We can check that. I would have to take that on notice.

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: Thank you. I would be happy to get as much detail as you have on that.

Answer

Drug and alcohol addiction treatments are two treatment options under the Professional services category of the Employment Fund. As there are no subcategories, expenditure data is not available for this type of treatment specifically.

The following is a breakdown by state of the numbers of job seekers who have commenced in addiction intervention, drug and/or alcohol rehabilitation as an activity between 1 July 2015 and 31 March 2017, irrespective of whether that treatment was funded through the Employment Fund. Data is drawn from the Department of Employment's administrative data.

STATE	Unique Job Seekers Commenced	Total Commencements
ACT	78	102
NSW	1,103	1,285
NT	18	18
QLD	427	489
SA	160	187
TAS	66	77
VIC	545	605
WA	329	379
Total	2,724*	3,142

*2 participants commenced in more than one state, but are only counted once in the total