

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-004055

Senator Paterson asked on 29 May 2017 on proof Hansard page 57

Question

Comparison of Australia's participation requirements

ACTING CHAIR: Do you have anything in your existing body of work that compares Australia's participation requirements to participation requirements of other like countries?
Ms Jensen: I do not have the specifics with me at present, but I can get that for you. From recollection, in comparison to a number of countries, including many of the Nordic countries, our requirements are not as extensive for many of these cohorts, including for sole parents and mature-age people in particular. This is helping to bring Australia back into line to where countries that have better performance in terms of workforce participation have already gone in recognising changes in longevity and expectations and capability to remain connected with the benefits of work.

Answer

The Department of Employment informs its policy analysis and development work with relevant comparisons with, and examination of, international arrangements and evidence. However, this does not usually take the form of a direct comparison of arrangements due to significant differences in international income support arrangements.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has produced a number of publications comparing the participation requirements among countries, including:

OECD (2017) Connecting People with Jobs: Key Issues for Raising Labour Market Participation in Australia. OECD Publishing, Paris.

- This report examined the employment of various groups and identified a number of areas of unmet labour activation potential, including mature-aged workers, some parent cohorts and youth. As part of this analysis, the report examined activity requirements for older recipients, and cited evidence from the Netherlands, Canada and the United Kingdom. The report also compared activation of lone parents, comparing Australian arrangements to those across 13 other countries.
- This report is available at: www.oecd.org/employment/connecting-people-with-jobs-key-issues-for-raising-labour-market-participation-in-australia-9789264269637-en.htm

Additional reports from the OECD regarding international activation strategies are available at: www.oecd.org/els/emp/activation.htm