

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-004075

Senator Siewert asked on 29 May 2017 on proof Hansard page 59

Question

Job seeker requirements analysis

Mr Manning: As at 16 May, jobseekers aged over 50 were 25.6 per cent of the jobactive cohort. In terms of Employment Fund expenditure from 1 July 2015 to 31 March 2017, they were 16.7 per cent of all expenditure.

Senator SIEWERT: Of the Employment Fund.

Mr Manning: Of Employment Fund expenditure that time, 16.7 per cent was spent on jobseekers aged over 50.

Senator SIEWERT: That is a significant difference between the cohort that they make up and the amount that is spent.

Mr Manning: It is lower. It is worth bearing in mind that for some of the categories of expenditure under the Employment Fund, they are less likely to require that expenditure. For example, one of the categories is pre-employment training. They are more likely to have had an employment history, so they will not need expenditure on that. Certainly, it is lower. There may be some reasons for it in terms of the categories of expenditure.

Ms Leon: Many young people do not have any skills or qualifications at all, whereas many of the older workers may already have a qualification, so there can be some reasons why the expenditure is different.

Senator SIEWERT: I understand what you are saying, but we have also acknowledged that they need some support for retraining.

Ms Leon: That is right.

Senator SIEWERT: I appreciate that there are different requirements, but it is not to say that an older person's requirements are cheaper than a younger person's. Have you looked at an analysis of why that difference is there?

Mr Manning: The department has not, as far as I am aware. I will take on notice whether that has ever been done in the past.

Senator SIEWERT: That would be appreciated.

Answer

The Department has not undertaken an analysis comparing Employment Fund expenditure between young and mature age job seekers.