

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-004276

Senator Marshall provided in writing.

Question

Employment Fund

At one third of the way through jobactive only 15 per cent of the Employment Fund has been spent. Why?

Will guidelines be altered to give more help to people so they can get off welfare?

Answer

Between 1 July 2015 and 31 March 2017, \$518.1 million has been credited to the Employment Fund. Of this, jobactive providers have spent \$184.2 million, or 35.6 per cent.

Early Employment Fund expenditure was conservative but provider usage of the Employment Fund has increased since the start of jobactive. A similar trend was observed with the Employment Pathway Fund under Job Services Australia.

The Employment Fund is a flexible pool of funds that providers can draw on to help job seekers find work when they need assistance.

The Department of Employment has already implemented a number of Employment Fund policy changes, such as introducing new categories of expenditure, and has promoted best practice expenditure to providers and industry peaks.

Employment Fund expenditure is expected to further increase as budget measures to increase the use of the Employment Fund are implemented, particularly for Indigenous and mature aged job seekers.