

## **Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018**

#### **Outcome 1 - Employment**

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-004279**

**Senator Marshall provided in writing.**

#### **Question**

##### **Consultation with non-profits regarding volunteering**

Have you consulted with non-profits to learn about what impact this might have on volunteer hours and rates? What was their feedback?

#### **Answer**

The Department does not believe these changes will have an adverse impact on the hours or rates of volunteer activity overall. There will be more job seekers over 60 with participation requirements that can be met through volunteering than there are current job seekers aged 55 to 59 engaged in volunteering.

Job seekers aged 55 to 59 can continue to meet their requirements through volunteering, including at not-for-profit organisations, but will need to do so in combination with other activities.

As part of the 2017–18 Budget measure, Working Age Payments Reforms, the Australian Government is also introducing Annual Activity Requirements of 10 hours per fortnight for job seekers aged 60 to the Age Pension age from 20 September 2018. These job seekers will be able to fully meet their new requirements through approved voluntary work. Given more job seekers will be able to volunteer to satisfy their requirements, it is not expected that the change to job seekers aged 55 to 59 will significantly impact non-profits.

The change to ensure job seekers aged 55 to 59 years can no longer satisfy their Annual Activity Requirements through 30 hours a fortnight of volunteering alone was not the subject of consultation as it was developed during the budget-in-confidence process.

The Department of Employment has commenced post-Budget consultations on 2017–18 Budget Measures, including with non-profits. The Department is planning more targeted consultations over the second half of 2017.