

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 3 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM0091_14

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

Job Services Australia Data

1. What is the current JSA caseload, and how many DSP recipients are in each of the JSA streams? 2. For 2012-13, what is the average Employment Pathway Fund (EPF) expenditure per job seeker, and what is the maximum EPF expenditure for each Stream? 3. Please update DEEWR Question No. EW00551_13 for the year 2012-13.

Answer

Each question, and an update of previous Question No EW0551_13 will be individually addressed. Answers are as follows.

1 - What is the current JSA caseload, and how many DSP recipients are in each of the JSA streams?

The below table provides a count of total job seekers and those on DSP who were on the JSA caseload at 30 September 2013.

Stream	Total caseload	DSP recipients
Stream 1 limited	13,120	145
Stream 1	243,708	30
Stream 2	192,676	197
Stream 3	149,731	1,174
Stream 4	155,980	1,105
Total¹	758,970	2,669

1 – The total includes job seekers whose eligibility is yet to be determined and not assigned to a stream.

2 - For 2012–13, what is the average Employment Pathway Fund (EPF) expenditure per job seeker, and what is the maximum EPF expenditure for each Stream?

The average Employment Pathway Fund (EPF) expenditure per job seeker over 2012–13 was \$829.

The maximum EPF expenditure for each stream for 2012–13 is outlined in the below table.

Stream	Maximum EPF expenditure
Stream 1	\$10,000.00
Stream 2	\$16,744.49
Stream 3	\$18,763.55
Stream 4	\$19,133.11

3 The following questions are updated from previous question number EW0551_13 but for the year 2012-13

Please provide the number of jobseekers who participated in each Stream of JSA assistance, and separately for the Work Experience phase, during 2012–13, and the number currently in each stream and in the Work Experience phase, broken down by duration of unemployment.

The below table provides a count of individual job seekers who were on the JSA caseload on any given day during 2012–13.

Stream	Number of participants
Stream 1 Limited	135,369
Stream 1	640,206
Stream 2	406,939
Stream 3	273,924
Stream 4	233,576
Work Experience Phase	336,553
Total JSA Participants	1,421,946

Note: A job seeker can participate in more than one stream over the course of a financial year, hence the sum of the streams is greater than the total JSA participant count.

The below table provides a count of job seekers by unemployment duration for each stream - split between in Work Experience Phase (WEPH) (including those within Compulsory Activity Phase) and those Not within Work Experience Phase as at 30 September 2013.

Stream	Unemployment Duration								
	< 12 months			12 - 23 months			2 years +		
	Not in WEPH or CAP	WEPH/ CAP	Total	Not in WEPH or CAP	WEPH/ CAP	Total	Not in WEPH or CAP	WEPH/ CAP	Total
Stream 1	191,634	1,556	193,190	17,458	20,761	38,219	6,841	5,458	12,299
Stream 2	87,756	1,001	88,757	36,485	17,163	53,648	22,277	27,994	50,271
Stream 3	31,718	1,006	32,724	18,388	8,387	26,775	34,875	55,357	90,232
Stream 4	30,280	1,485	31,765	25,082	7,031	32,113	32,825	59,277	92,102
Total	341,388	5,048	346,436	97,413	53,342	150,755	96,818	148,086	244,904

Note: 1) Job seekers not in Work Experience Phase include those who are suspended and those who have not completed sufficient time in their current stream to enter the Work Experience Phase after 12 months of Stream Services

2) Excludes Stream 1 Limited and those whose eligibility is not determined.

Please provide total costs for each Stream of JSA assistance during 2012-13 and for the Work Experience phase, broken down into three categories: service fees, EPF credits spent, and outcome payments.

JSA Expenditure for the 2012-13 Financial Year (GST inclusive)

	Service Fees	Outcome Fees (including Job Placement Fees)	Employment Pathway Fund¹	Total
Stream 1	\$125,494,527	\$7,938,700	\$12,594,965	\$146,028,192
Stream 2	\$140,297,306	\$102,118,041	\$97,206,565	\$339,621,912
Stream 3	\$108,561,588	\$108,676,650	\$91,046,432	\$308,284,670
Stream 4	\$164,904,147	\$96,800,269	\$110,063,107	\$371,767,523
Total	\$539,257,568	\$315,533,660	\$355,420,808	\$1,210,212,036

Data source: Department administrative data.

Note: Work Experience and Compulsory Activity Phase expenditure cannot be accurately reported separately. This expenditure has been distributed according to the stream the job seekers were in when the cost was incurred.

¹Stream-level EPF figures will exclude expenditure not attributed to an individual job seeker.

Please provide average expenditures from the Employment Pathway Fund for each Stream and for the Work Experience Phase during 2012-13, broken down by expenditure type, and the same breakdowns for the number of jobseekers assisted with funds drawn from the EPF.

The reporting of EPF categories has changed since the previous Question on Notice (EW0551_13).

The data reported in Table 1 and Table 2 is not mutually exclusive.

Table 1 - Average EPF expenditure per job seeker assisted by Stream and Category – 2012–13

Stream¹	EPF Category²	Average³	No. of job seekers³
Stream 1	Clothing and presentation	\$117.75	4,924
	Professional services	\$191.87	4,764
	Provider services	\$133.90	21,367
	Training course	\$315.06	19,998
	Transport & Licensing assistance	\$90.57	4,923
	Wage subsidy	\$1,842.64	455
	Remaining Categories	\$139.16	7,259
Stream 2	Clothing and presentation	\$143.33	41,120
	Professional services	\$423.03	12,027
	Provider services	\$157.39	56,007
	Training course	\$657.07	83,801
	Transport & Licensing assistance	\$161.90	35,805
	Wage subsidy	\$2,406.26	7,824
	Remaining Categories	\$192.23	30,193
Stream 3	Clothing and presentation	\$154.26	32,425
	Professional services	\$422.20	11,551
	Provider services	\$202.50	50,240
	Training course	\$824.09	57,409
	Transport & Licensing assistance	\$182.33	25,307
	Wage subsidy	\$3,410.37	6,147
	Remaining Categories	\$213.26	29,233
Stream 4	Clothing and presentation	\$163.31	37,976
	Professional services	\$469.94	37,002
	Provider services	\$199.43	44,648
	Training course	\$763.66	56,590
	Transport & Licensing assistance	\$200.47	41,063
	Wage subsidy	\$3,987.59	6,601
	Remaining Categories	\$253.52	40,179

¹ Some EPF expenditure is not recorded against individual job seekers and has not been attributed to the averages – this includes Work Experience Group-based Activities and bulk purchases

² Remaining Categories includes: Other; Pre-employment checks; Interpreter services; Training, books and equipment; Tools and mobile phones; Stream four only assistance; Special Claims; NEIS and self-employment; Relocation assistance; Short term childcare assistance; Stream 1-3 rent and crisis accommodation

³ Job seekers with expenditure across multiple categories and or streams will be included in the calculations multiple times

Table 2 - Average EPF expenditure per transaction during the WEPH by Category – 2012–13

	EPF Category²	Average per transaction	No. of transactions
During WE Phase¹	Clothing and presentation	\$96.15	65,974
	Professional services	\$162.25	70,251
	Provider services	\$50.70	269,075
	Training course	\$341.20	167,174
	Transport & Licensing assistance	\$80.81	81,659
	Wage subsidy	\$2,051.88	10,234
	Remaining Categories	\$95.93	80,853

Note: The average expenditure per job seeker is unreliable as a measure of assistance during the Work Experience Phase given the level of group activity during this period which cannot be attributed to individual job seekers. Individual job seekers will usually have funding spent across multiple categories.

¹ Some EPF expenditure is not recorded against individual job seekers and has not been attributed to the averages – this includes Work Experience Group-based Activities and bulk purchases

² Remaining Categories includes: Other; Pre-employment checks; Interpreter services; Training, books and equipment; Tools and mobile phones; Stream four only assistance; Special Claims; NEIS and self-employment; Relocation assistance; Short term childcare assistance; Stream 1-3 rent and crisis accommodation

Please provide a breakdown of the number of jobseekers during 2012-13 attracting outcome payments, broken down by pathway and full outcome payments, and by 13 week and 26 week outcomes, for each Stream of JSA assistance and for the Work Experience phase

JSA Outcomes from 2012-2013 Financial Year

		13 week outcome			26 week outcome		
		Full	Pathway	Total	Full	Pathway	Total
Work Experience/ Compulsory Activity Phases	Stream 1	3,415	2,094	5,509	2,505	735	3,240
	Stream 2	7,942	5,172	13,114	6,449	1,952	8,401
	Stream 3	8,672	6,576	15,248	6,630	2,557	9,187
	Stream 4	5,455	3,730	9,185	3,485	1,160	4,645
	Total	25,484	17,572	43,056	19,069	6,404	25,473
Non Work Experience/ Compulsory Activity Phases	Stream 1	632	301	933	647	148	795
	Stream 2	38,654	18,802	57,456	32,714	7,745	40,459
	Stream 3	14,673	7,637	22,310	12,176	3,645	15,821
	Stream 4	15,287	7,662	22,949	12,066	3,052	15,118
	Total	69,246	34,402	103,648	57,603	14,590	72,193
Total		94,730	51,974	146,704	76,672	20,994	97,666

Note: An individual job seeker may be counted multiple times in this table as they may have achieved more than one outcome in a financial year.

Please provide details of any employment service evaluations that have been completed by the Department so far this year (including a copy of relevant reports), or are expected to be completed by the end of 2013.

Refer to SQ13-000818.

***Please note that to facilitate clarity the following question has been answered in two separate parts.**

Part 1

Please provide data on trends in the number of number of very long term unemployed people on Newstart and Youth Allowance (Other) through 2012–13

The Department of Employment does not have responsibility for Income Support. This function is owned by the Department of Social Services.

Part 2

Please provide the numbers of these people who have been referred to, and commenced, the wage subsidy scheme.

Please provide data/numbers/information on the 11-month work for benefits scheme announced in the Building Australia's Future Workforce policy since the date of implementation of those two measures, and any information available on employment outcomes for those who commenced these programs.

Wage Connect is a wage subsidy for the very long term unemployed. During 2012–13, 8,835 participants had been placed in a Wage Connect position with a signed employment agreement.

As at 30 September 2013, 5,636 13-week employment outcomes have been recorded and 4,329 26-week employment outcomes have been recorded.

Increased obligations for very long term unemployed job seekers were introduced in the Building Australia's Future Workforce on 1 July 2012. During 2012–13, 98,585 job seekers entered the Compulsory Activity Phase to increase their obligations and have recorded 5,830 13-week employment outcomes and 2,317 26-week employment outcomes.