

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM1623_15

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Question

Work for the Dole - eligibility

- a) When can an unemployed person enrol in the Work for the Dole program?
- b) Do they have to wait until they have been unemployed for six months to enrol?
- c) Can unemployed people under 30 receive Newstart earlier than the six month waiting period if they enrol early?
- d) Can participants continue the Work for the Dole program after they have completed six months - that is after 12 months of unemployment?

Answer

The following answers relate to Work for the Dole from 1 July 2015 as part of the Employment Services 2015 model.

- a) An unemployed person will be able to start participating in a Work for the Dole activity after they have been registered with an Employment Provider for at least six months. Job seekers in Stream A or subject to the Stronger Participation Incentives measure (subject to the passage of legislation) will generally commence Work for the Dole activities after six months and other job seekers after 12 months.
- b) Refer to response at a).
- c) A job seeker aged under 30 years who is subject to the Stronger Participation Incentives measure (as described in the Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment (2014 Budget Measures No. 4) Bill 2014) would not be able to reduce their payment preclusion phase by volunteering to commence Work for the Dole during the payment preclusion period.
- d) A job seeker would be able to continue participating in a Work for the Dole placement beyond six months, subject to agreement of the host organisation and the Employment Provider. Subject to the passage of legislation, job seekers aged under 30 who are subject to the Stronger Participation Incentives measure would be in their second payment preclusion phase and participation in Work for the Dole during this period would not reduce their payment preclusion period.