

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016
Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000278

Senator O'Neill asked on 22 October 2015 on proof Hansard page 26

Question

Work for the Dole - Supply and requirement

Senator O'NEILL: Are there any jobseekers who are required to be in mandatory Work for the Dole where a commencement or placement has not been able to be found?

Mr Parsons: Generally speaking, the supply of places exceeds the demand. That is at a macro level. To be honest, I would not be able to say that at every individual location around the country there was not a jobseeker who had a Work for the Dole requirement and in that location there was not a position available. At a macro level the supply of positions does exceed the requirement.

Senator O'NEILL: It would be very helpful if you could find out that detail.

Mr Parsons: I will do my best.

Answer

Job seekers with an Annual Activity Requirement can undertake a range of activities to meet their requirements, with Work for the Dole as the default activity. In consultation with the job seeker, jobactive providers decide the most appropriate activity to meet each job seeker's circumstances. It is therefore not possible to capture meaningful data on whether a Work for the Dole place is available at any point in time as demand for places is fluid from day to day and dependent on provider decisions based on individual job seeker circumstances.

The Department's system indicates that Work for the Dole places were available for providers in all regions during the period 1 July to 30 September 2015.