

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000365

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Question

Employment fund

1. Can you please confirm how much money is the Employment Fund in each year for the next four years?
2. Can you tell us if the Fund is on-track to be spent this financial year?
3. Can you provide me with a breakdown on the types of support it is currently being used for?
4. Is the fund being evenly utilised across the Employment regions?

Answer

1. Employment Fund credits are forecast to reach \$1.4 billion over the next four years (to 2018–19), refer to Table 1.

Table 1: Employment Fund credits forecast by financial year

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Total
\$402,600,597	\$337,898,788	\$332,891,908	\$330,089,979	\$1,403,481,272

2. The Employment Fund is demand driven and the credits accumulated by jobactive providers in a financial year can be used in future financial years. As with the 2009 transition to the new Employment Services contract, take-up has been slower in the first six months.

3. Refer to Table 2.

Table 2: Employment Fund General Account Expenditure by Category as at 30 September 2015

Categories	Expenditure ¹	% of Total Expenditure
Professional Services	\$1,786,500	29.0%
Accredited Training	\$1,258,788	20.4%
Clothing and Presentation	\$1,174,554	19.0%
Work Related Licencing	\$331,317	5.4%
Work Related Items	\$321,758	5.2%
Accredited Interpreter Services	\$318,648	5.2%
Food, Phone and Petrol Cards/Vouchers	\$286,614	4.6%
Other categories	\$692,173	11.2%
Total	\$6,170,351²	100%

¹Expenditure figures provided are GST inclusive.

²Due to rounding total is not a sum of the individual categories.

4. Refer to Table 3. Employment Fund expenditure across the jobactive Employment Regions is generally commensurate with job seeker caseload. Employment Fund expenditure tends to be higher in Employment Regions that service larger numbers of job seekers.

Table 3: Proportion of Employment Fund General Account Expenditure and Proportion of jobactive Active Caseload by Employment Region as at 30 September 2015

Employment Region	Proportion of Expenditure	Proportion of Active Caseload
Adelaide North	4.4%	4.3%
Adelaide South	2.5%	2.9%
Ballarat	1.4%	0.9%
Barwon	1.3%	1.2%
Bendigo	1.3%	0.8%
Brisbane South East	4.3%	4.0%
Broome	0.2%	0.1%
Cairns	1.1%	1.8%
Capital Region	1.2%	1.5%
Central West	2.0%	1.1%
Darling Downs	1.0%	1.3%
Darwin (includes Alice Springs)	0.7%	0.6%
Esperance	0.1%	0.1%
Far West Orana (includes Broken Hill)	0.6%	0.8%
Fitzroy	0.8%	1.3%
Geraldton	0.6%	0.3%
Gippsland	1.4%	1.6%
Gold Coast	5.2%	3.1%
Goulburn/Murray	2.0%	1.8%
Great Southern - Wheatbelt	0.2%	0.7%
Hobart and Southern Tasmania	1.0%	1.4%
Hunter	1.9%	3.2%
Illawarra South Coast	2.1%	2.5%

Employment Region	Proportion of Expenditure	Proportion of Active Caseload
Inner Metropolitan Melbourne	3.3%	3.3%
Kalgoorlie	0.3%	0.2%
Mackay	0.7%	0.9%
Mid North Coast	2.5%	2.0%
Mid North SA	0.7%	0.6%
Murray and South East	0.6%	0.8%
Murray Riverina	1.3%	0.9%
New England and North West	2.1%	1.2%
North and North Western Tasmania	1.4%	1.6%
North Coast	3.1%	1.7%
North Eastern Melbourne	5.4%	3.5%
North West Country SA	0.3%	0.5%
North Western Melbourne	1.3%	1.6%
Perth - North	3.7%	3.4%
Perth - South	3.2%	4.1%
Somerset	4.9%	3.7%
South Coast of Victoria	0.7%	0.5%
South Eastern Melbourne and Peninsula	5.9%	4.3%
South West WA	0.4%	0.8%
Sydney East Metro	3.9%	3.8%
Sydney Greater West	3.3%	4.4%
Sydney North and West	1.5%	2.9%
Sydney South West	1.9%	4.0%
Townsville (includes Mt Isa)	1.3%	1.6%
Western Melbourne	3.3%	3.7%
Wide Bay and Sunshine Coast	3.1%	3.9%
Wimmera Mallee	1.2%	0.9%
Wivenhoe	1.9%	2.0%
All	100.0%	100.0%