

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

#### Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000412

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

#### Question

##### Work for the Dole placements

Since 1 July 2015, outside the areas in which the Community Development Program operates:

- How many people have commenced Work for the Dole placements, classified A, B, C respectively, aged under 30 years and 30 or over, and unemployed for less than 6 months, 6-12 months, and 12 months and over
- Please provide a breakdown of the types of placements including individual and group placements, not for profit and for profit sectors, the type of work performed, and the number of hours per week required
- How many 'no show no pay' sanctions have been applied in respect of participation in mutual obligation activities, including specifically Work for the Dole
- What were the total funds expended on Work for the Dole including payments to coordinators and Jobactive providers respectively.

#### Answer

There were 36,284 individual job seekers that commenced in Work for the Dole activities from 1 July to 30 September 2015. Where a job seeker commenced in a Work for the Dole place more than once, and had a different stream or age for those commencements, the status at their most recent referral is used.

Table 1 provides a breakdown of these commencements by Stream, Table 2 by age and Table 3 by unemployment duration.

**Table 1: Work for the Dole job seekers by Stream – 1 July 2015 to 30 September 2015**

Stream	Job seekers
Stream A	18,299
Stream B	10,710
Stream C	7,270
Stream Not Determined	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,284</b>

**Table 2: Work for the Dole job seekers by age – 1 July 2015 to 30 September 2015**

Age	Job seekers
Under 30 years	15,148
30 or over	21,136
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,284</b>

**Table 3: Work for the Dole job seekers by unemployment duration\* – 1 July 2015 to 30 September 2015**

<b>Length of unemployment</b>	<b>Job seekers</b>
<b>Less than 6 Months</b>	179
<b>6 to 12 months</b>	4,086
<b>12 Months or Over</b>	32,019
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,284</b>

\*Unemployment duration refers to the time job seekers have been registered with Department of Human Services as looking for work.

With the exception of a small number of job seekers, the 179 who commenced a Work for the Dole placement that have been registered as unemployed for less than six months have had more than six months of employment assistance. At some point these job seekers have had their unemployment start date reset while in assistance. The remainder volunteered to participate in Work for the Dole.

Table 4 provides the breakdown of Work for the Dole places by Group or individually hosted.

**Table 4: Group based and individual commencements from 1 July to 30 September 2015**

<b>Group based</b>	23,581	59%
<b>Individual</b>	16,395	41%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,976</b>	<b>100%</b>

The figures in this table are commencements and not individual job seekers as in tables 1, 2 and 3.

#### **Not for profit and for profit sectors**

Work for the Dole Places cannot be undertaken in a for-profit organisation except in very limited circumstances (e.g. during a natural disaster). In the period 1 July to 30 September 2015, 100 percent of Work for the Dole places were undertaken in not-for-profit organisations.

#### **The type of work performed**

Obtaining this information would cause an unreasonable diversion of Departmental resources.

#### **Number of hours per week required**

Of the 39,976 commencements, 25,193 (63 per cent) were in places with a duration of 25 hours per week, 14,430 (36.1 per cent) were in places with a duration of 15 hours, and 353 (0.9 per cent) were in places with a duration of between more than 15 and less than 25 hours a week.

#### **Job Seeker Compliance penalties**

Between 1 July and 30 September 2015, 1,698 penalties were applied to job seekers for failing to attend activities to meet their Annual Activity Requirement. Of these, 1,610 specifically related to Work for the Dole.

#### **Expenditure**

From 1 July to 30 September 2015, expenditure on the Work for the Dole programme was \$64,533,090. This comprises \$52,054,811 paid to jobactive providers and \$12,478,279 to Work for the Dole Coordinators.