

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000829

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

Mutual obligation activities

Since December 2015, how many job seekers have:

- Reached the stage where they are required to undertake mutual obligation activities including Work for the Dole (divided into those under 30 years and others)?
- Been referred to mutual obligation activities, by type of activity?

Of the above, the proportions that commenced each of those activities.

Of those who were referred but did not commence, the proportions that left income support or did not proceed with their claim.

Of those who were referred but did not commence, the proportions that were sanctioned.

Answer

Between 1 January and 1 September 2016, 306,391 job seekers became subject to the Annual Activity Requirement (AAR) when they entered the jobactive Work for the Dole phase. Of these, 127,957 were less than 30 years old and 178,434 were aged 30 years or more.

Of the 306,391 job seekers, 242,214 were referred to an activity to meet their AAR, or were already participating in an approved activity when they became subject to the AAR.

Table 1: Job seekers referred to each individual activity type

Activity Type	Job seekers referred*
Paid employment	118,037
Work for the Dole	98,511
Accredited education and training (vocational) including accredited language, literacy and numeracy courses	52,946
Interventions/non vocational assistance for Stream C job seekers	10,201
Other Government programs	9,924
Voluntary work	5,199
National Work Experience Programme	104
Approved non-Government programs	77
Defence Reserves	55

Department of Employment Administrative data, 2016

Note: A single job seeker can be referred to more than one activity.

Table 2: The proportion of referred job seekers that commenced in each individual activity type

Activity Type	Proportion of job seekers commenced
Paid employment	99.0%
Work for the Dole	70.2%
Accredited education and training (vocational) including accredited language, literacy and numeracy courses	95.4%
Interventions/non vocational assistance for Stream C job seekers	95.5%
Other Government programs	79.0%
Voluntary work	95.0%
National Work Experience Programme	85.6%
Approved non-Government programs	66.2%
Defence Reserves	98.2%

Department of Employment Administrative data, 2016

Of the job seekers who were referred to any activity but did not commence and were receiving some form of income support at the time they were referred, 34.6 per cent were not receiving any kind of income support payment at 1 September 2016.

Of the job seekers who were referred to any activity but did not commence, 13.5 per cent had a penalty applied under the job seeker compliance framework for any day of non-participation following their referral up until 30 June 2016 (the most recent data available).

While detailed data is not available, as well as non-compliance and exiting jobactive, other reasons for referred job seekers not commencing in any activity, would include change in a job seeker's circumstances so that they were no longer required to undertake an activity (such as changing jobactive Streams or being temporarily exempt from their requirements), the activity not having commenced as anticipated or, while the referral occurred beforehand, the activity starting after 1 September 2016.