

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000830

Senator Siewert submitted in writing.

Question

Work for the Dole participants

Since December 2015, how many people have been referred to, and participated in, Work for the Dole?

- Among Work for the Dole participants, how many people were classified Stream A, B, C respectively, aged under 30 years and 30 or over, and under 25 years and over, and unemployed for less than 6 months, 6-12 months, and 12 months and over?
- Please provide a breakdown, within the above categories, of their employment outcomes (full and part time).
- Please provide a breakdown of the number of hours per week required.
- How many 'no show, no pay' and other sanctions were applied in respect of participation in Work for the Dole?
- What were the total funds spent on Work for the Dole including payments to coordinators and jobactive providers respectively?

Answer

Participants

From 1 January 2016 to 1 September 2016, 128,083 individual job seekers were referred to and 86,309¹ individual job seekers commenced in Work for the Dole activities. 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, only the status at their most recent referral is used.

Table 1 provides a breakdown of these commencements by Stream, Tables 2 and 3 by age and Table 4 by unemployment duration.

Table 1: Work for the Dole job seekers by Stream – 1 January 2016 to 1 September 2016

Stream	Job seekers
Stream A	50,281
Stream B	22,997
Stream C	13,029
Stream Not Determined	2
Total	86,309

¹ This includes job seekers who commenced in the Work for the Dole Phase prior to 1 January 2016 or did not have an AAR at 1 January 2016.

Table 2: Work for the Dole job seekers by age (aged under 30 years or higher) – 1 January 2016 to 1 September 2016

Age	Job seekers
Under 30 years	36,544
30 or over	49,765
Total	86,309

Table 3: Work for the Dole job seekers by age (aged under 25 years or higher) – 1 January 2016 to 1 September 2016

Age	Job seekers
Under 25 years	24,252
25 or over	62,057
Total	86,309

Table 4: Work for the Dole job seekers by unemployment duration* – 1 January 2016 to 1 September 2016

Length of unemployment	Job seekers
Less than 6 Months	1,043
6 to 12 months	25,368
12 Months or Over	59,898
Total	86,309

* Unemployment duration refers to the time job seekers have been registered with Department of Human Services as looking for work. Data is based on the job seekers unemployment duration at the date they were referred to a Work for the Dole activity.

Tables 5 to 8 provide a breakdown, within the above categories, of their employment outcomes. The outcomes data used for this response does not distinguish between full-time and part-time employment.

Table 5: Employment outcomes by Stream for job seekers who commenced in Work for the Dole between 1 January 2016 and 1 September 2016

Stream	Job seekers	4 week outcomes	12 week outcomes	26 week outcomes
Stream A	50,281	4,935	2,161	2
Stream B	22,997	1,034	452	0
Stream C	13,029	439	191	0
Stream Not Determined	2	0	0	0
Total	86,309	6,408	2,804	2

Table 6: Employment outcomes for job seekers by age (aged under 30 years or higher) who commenced in Work for the Dole between 1 January 2016 and 1 September 2016

Stream	Job seekers	4 week outcomes	12 week outcomes	26 week outcomes
Under 30 years	36,544	2,903	1,326	1
30 or over	49,765	3,505	1,478	1
Total	86,309	6,408	2,804	2

Table 7: Employment outcomes for job seekers by age (aged under 25 years of age or higher) who commenced in Work for the Dole between 1 January 2016 and 1 September 2016

Stream	Job seekers	4 week outcomes	12 week outcomes	26 week outcomes
Under 25 years	24,252	1,892	828	1
25 or over	62,057	4,516	1,976	1
Total	86,309	6,408	2,804	2

Table 8: Employment outcomes by unemployment duration for job seekers who commenced in Work for the Dole between 1 January 2016 and 1 September 2016

Length of unemployment	Job seekers	4 week outcomes	12 week outcomes	26 week outcomes
Less than 6 Months	1,043	69	22	0
6 to 12 months	25,368	2,739	1,217	0
12 Months or Over	59,898	3,600	1,565	2
Total	86,309	6,408	2,804	2

Table 9 provides a breakdown of the number of hours per week required for job seekers who commenced in a Work for the Dole Activity between 1 January 2016 to 1 September 2016 and had an Annual Activity Requirement from 1 January 2016.

Table 9: Number of hours required per week for job seekers who commenced in a Work for the Dole Activity between 1 January 2016 to 1 September 2016 and had an Annual Activity Requirement from 1 January 2016.

Job seekers with an AAR	25 hours per week	15 hours per week	Up to 8 hours per week
69,127	27,739	32,463	8,925

Compliance

Between 1 January 2016 and 30 June 2016, 28,526 'no show no-pay' failures were applied to jobactive job seekers with mutual obligation requirements for failing to attend, or displaying inappropriate conduct at, Work for the Dole activities

Income support payment suspensions due to job seekers disengaging from Work for the Dole activities have not been provided, as these payment suspensions do not result in a financial penalty (i.e. a sanction). Full back-pay is made to the job seeker once they agree to attend an appointment with their provider so that their participation in activities can be discussed.

If a job seeker continues not complying with activity requirements specified in their Job Plan, and has three 'no show no pay' failures applied within a six month period. A Comprehensive Compliance Assessment (CCA) by the Department of Human Services (DHS) is triggered automatically. During a CCA, a senior or specialist DHS officer will investigate the job seeker's circumstances to identify any barriers to employment and possible alternative service options. If the DHS officer determines that a job seeker has persistently and willfully failed to meet their mutual obligation requirements, a serious failure is applied.

Expenditure

From 1 January 2016 to 1 September 2016, expenditure on the Work for the Dole programme was \$113.6 million. This comprised \$87.9 million paid to jobactive providers for activities and \$25.7 million to Work for the Dole Coordinators for service and placement fees.