

## **Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

#### **Outcome 1 - Employment**

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000911**

**Senator Siewert asked on 19 October 2016 on proof Hansard page 17**

#### **Question**

##### **Employment fund expenditure - financial year**

Mr Manning: I can tell you that, as at the same date at the end of August, the expenditure from the fund for the cohort aged 50-plus was 17 per cent of all employment fund expenditure.

Senator SIEWERT: That does not reflect the percentage of workers on Newstart who are older.

Mr Manning: No. I understand they are a greater percentage of the overall cohort, although of course the employment fund is mainly focused on getting people ready for employment, and it is quite possible that people in that cohort do not need the same general pre-employment skills. The top three categories of expenditure for the 50-plus cohort are accredited training, professional services and targeted pre-employment preparation.

Senator SIEWERT: That is for this financial year?

Mr Manning: I will have to double-check. I think that is from the start of the fund in 2015.

#### **Answer**

For the period 1 July 2015 to 1 September 2016, 17 per cent of all Employment Fund expenditure was on job seekers aged 50 years and older. As at 1 September 2016, job seekers aged 50 years and older represent 25.1 per cent of the total jobactive caseload.