

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

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

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

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000912**

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

#### **Question**

##### **Expenditure from the Employment Fund for stream B and C over 50's cohort**

Senator HINCH: I have a question for Mr Hehir, following up on Senator Siewert's much earlier question about the 25 per cent with medical reasons. How much of that figure is affected by tougher criteria, if any?

Mr Hehir: Unfortunately, I cannot answer that question. It is DHS who do the evaluation, so they make the call on the temporary medical and they would have the detail on whether that relates to tougher DSP criteria or not. They do the assessments.

Senator CAMERON: But, Mr Hehir, you set the parameters for DHS, don't you?

Mr Hehir: I am not sure that we do for medical.

Ms Leon: The only thing we set the parameters for is this: it is a determination set by this department that defines what a reasonable excuse is. So the broader question about whether someone has a reasonable excuse for not attending an appointment is a determination that I set, but I think the question of suspension from mutual obligation is either a DSS or a DHS policy. I can check that for you.

Senator SIEWERT: For medical reasons?

Ms Leon: We do not set the criteria for the medical reasons.

Senator SIEWERT: Do you have the figures for each of stream B and C for the over-50s?

Ms Leon: Figures for?

Senator SIEWERT: Expenditure from the employment fund.

Mr Hehir: I need to take that on notice. I do not have that in front of me.

Ms Leon: I will see if we have it here.

Mr Manning: No, we don't—sorry. We will take it on notice.

Senator SIEWERT: Thanks.

#### **Answer**

The following is a breakdown of the proportion of expenditure on job seekers aged 50 years and older by Stream for the period 1 July 2015 to 1 September 2016.

	Total Expenditure on job seekers aged 50+ years*		Total jobactive expenditure*	% of total jobactive expenditure on job seekers aged 50+ years
	(\$)	(%)		
<b>Stream A</b>	\$4,201,709	25.3%	\$26,496,602	15.8%
<b>Stream B</b>	\$6,907,443	41.6%	\$37,807,548	18.2%
<b>Stream C</b>	\$5,283,597	31.9%	33,275,318	15.8%
<b>Stream A Volunteer</b>	\$66,159	0.4%	390,795	16.9%
<b>Stream Not Determined</b>	\$129,655	0.8%	1,194,625	10.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,588,563</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$99,164,891</b>	<b>17%</b>

\* Total expenditure figures for EF include small amounts where the job seeker stream is not recorded