

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-001089

Senator Siewert asked on 19 October 2016 on proof Hansard page 16

Question

Utilisation of Employment Fund

Senator SIEWERT: I am aware of the fund. The point they are making is that they refuse to spend it on these older workers—and in a couple of instances they are able to gain a bit of work. But they are falling through the cracks. This is not the first time I have brought up the issue of not using the fund for certain clients. I have had a number of instances where people have told me they have refused to use the fund, maybe because they do not get as support when a person finds work through stream A. Maybe it is because they are older worker, and it is particularly for older workers.

Senator Cash: Thank you for raising that point. The department will continue to respond to your queries, but can I just say off-line that I will go back now and have a look at that. In particular, if you have cases, bring them to me.

Senator SIEWERT: I do not want to discuss—

Senator Cash: No, absolutely. Your issue is basically that the employment fund is not being utilised for older workers, particularly in relation to, for example, upskilling so they can use a computer.

Senator SIEWERT: Yes.

Senator Cash: I will undertake to have a look at that for you.

Senator SIEWERT: Thank you.

Answer

The response to QoN EMSQ16-000912 provides the expenditure for mature age job seekers.

Job seekers concerned about use of the Employment Fund should speak with their jobactive provider. If they would like to raise any concerns with the Department directly, they may contact the Department of Employment's National Customer Service Line 1800 805 260.