

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 4 - Employment

DEEWR Question No. EW0944_12

Senator Bernardi provided in writing.

Question

JSA - Stream 1

How many job seekers who have been unemployed for 2 or more years are in Stream 1? Why are these job seekers still classed as Stream 1, given they obviously have significant barriers to finding employment?

Answer

As at 31 January 2012, 8048 job seekers who have been unemployed for two or more years are being serviced in Stream 1. This amounts to four percent of the total case load of 200,561 job seekers in Stream 1 and approximately three percent of the total Very Long Term Unemployed (VLTU) caseload of 239,831 job seekers.

The JSCI provides a balanced and reliable holistic assessment of job seekers' relative disadvantage based on 18 different factors—*Job Seeker History* which assesses duration on income support is one of the 18 factors.

Being unemployed for two or more years is an indication of labour market disadvantage. Some labour markets have very few job opportunities resulting in some job seekers taking a considerable length of time to move into full-time employment again. However, a single disadvantage is not enough to place a job seeker into Stream 2.