

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

**Outcome 3 – Employment**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0262\_13**

**Senator Cash asked on 29 May 2012 , Hansard page 53**

**Question**

**Supported Wages Subsidy**

Senator CASH: What proportion of each case load is on a supported wage subsidy?

Ms Buffinton: I am happy to take that on notice. Senator CASH: What is the average supported wage paid? Ms Buffinton: To clarify, a supported wage, which is an industrial relations instrument, is when somebody who, due to their impairment, cannot work at the same level of productivity. That is different from the use of a supported wage subsidy, which is when somebody is working at a productive wage but their employer is using a wage subsidy to assist in their employment.

Senator CASH: And you will take that on notice as well? Ms Buffinton: I am happy to take that on notice.

Senator CASH: What percentage of each case load undertake unpaid work experience? Ms Buffinton: Again, we will take that on notice.

**Answer**

The Supported Wage System is a workplace relations instrument which enables employers to employ people whose work productivity is reduced as a result of their disability. The System enables employers to pay eligible people a pro-rata wage, based on the results of an independent assessment of their work productivity.

In 2010-11, the average weekly wage payable to people who were employed under the Supported Wage System was \$164.14.

As at 31 March 2012:

- 4.1 percent of the Disability Employment Services – Employment Support Service caseload, and less than 1 percent of the Disability Employment Services – Disability Management Service caseload were employed under Supported Wage System provisions, and
- 0.1 percent of the Disability Employment Services – Employment Support Service caseload, and 0.1 percent of the Disability Employment Services – Disability Management Service caseload were undertaking unpaid work experience.