

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

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

Outcome 3 – Employment

DEEWR Question No. EW0263_13

Senator Cash asked on 29 May 2012, Hansard page 53

Question

Job Capacity Assessments and Job Support Assessments

Senator CASH: It is for DSP? Okay. Ms Buffinton: There are about three times more employment support assessments done compared with job capacity assessments. Senator CASH: Okay. Could I get figures for both of them: how many job capacity assessments and how many job support assessments have been undertaken in the last 12 months? Ms Buffinton: That is now part of the Department of Human Services, since 1 July last year. We are happy to get that, but the Department of Human Services have the DHS assessment services, and they undertake both of those assessments. It is actually going to be their numbers that we will be drawing from.

Answer

As of 1 July 2011, Department of Human Services became the sole provider of assessment services.

DEEWR hold the policy responsibility for assessments related to employment services eligibility, known as Employment Services Assessments (ESAs).

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs hold policy responsibility for assessments related to the Disability Support Pension (DSP), known as Job Capacity Assessments (JCAs).

The previous JCA program ended on 30 June 2011.

With the introduction of the new assessment arrangements on 1 July 2011, ESAs replaced the former Standard JCA to assess employment services eligibility and the new JCA (same as the former complex JCA) are now used solely for DSP purposes.

The table below illustrates the breakdown of the number of assessments as the time period crosses the transition to the new assessment arrangements. From the period between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2012, a total of 117 649 JCAs and 265 147 ESAs have been conducted.

Assessment Type	01/04/11–30/06/11	01/07/11–31/03/12	Totals
JCA Standard	70,444		
JCA Complex	32,073		
ESAt		194,703	265,147 ⁽¹⁾
JCA (DSP only)		85,576	117,649 ⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ = JCA Standard Assessments (01/04/11–30/06/11) plus ESAts (01/06/11–31/03/12)

⁽²⁾ = JCA Complex Assessments (01/04/11–30/06/11) plus JCA (01/06/11–31/03/12)

Note: The data is based on the assumption that 'job support assessments' refer to the ESAts.