

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2006-2007 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
2ND NOVEMBER 2006
EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 1: Efficient and effective labour market assistance

Output Group 1.2: Labour Market Programme Management and Delivery

Output 1.2.2: Employment Services

Question Number: W961-07

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing:

In each of the years to 2009-10, how many Wage Assist places have been made available (a) Nationally (b) In each Employment Services Area (c) To each Job Network members (d) What is the cost in each year per place and in total?

Answer:

- (a) 2006/7: 3,000 Wage Assist places nationally
2007/8: 5,000 Wage Assist places nationally
2008/9: 7,000 Wage Assist places nationally
- (b) Wage Assist places for 2006/7 have been allocated to JNMs at an organisational level not ESA.
- (c) Wage Assist places are allocated annually to a JNM based on the share of Very Long Term Unemployed (VLTU) job seekers on their case-load, though the department reserves the right to re-allocate places based on usage levels. All JNMs have been, and will continue to be, allocated a minimum of 1 Wage Assist place (with allocations ranging from 1 to over 350 places).
- (d) The total maximum cost of a Wage Assist place is \$4,600, with the first payment of \$2,300 to an employer for a job seeker who completes 13 weeks in employment and a second payment of \$2,300 to the employer where the job seeker completes 26 weeks in employment.

Actual expenditure relies on the number of Wage Assist places taken up in each year and is included in the department's reporting on the Job Network single line appropriation.