

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 4 - Employment

DEEWR Question No. EW0774_12

Senator Siewert asked on 19 October 2011, Hansard page 93

Question

JSA stream 4

Senator SIEWERT: Against the criteria for stream 4; do you do an analysis of those that are on there and if the 20 per cent of their significant disadvantage is homelessness? Do you know what I mean? You could look at what the characteristics are of that cohort of people.

Ms Parker: Yes. The difficulty we have again is the multiple stuff. We would be able to tell you that there are this many job seekers with 17 disadvantages and some with eight, and how many with four.

Senator SIEWERT: But do we know what they are? Is there a common thread across that? If mental health turns up in— Ms Parker: In how many categories?

Senator SIEWERT: Yes.

Ms Parker: Can we take that on notice and we will have a look?

Senator SIEWERT: Yes.

Answer

As part of determining a job seeker's eligibility for Stream 4 a job seeker will undertake an Employment Services Assessment (ESAt). All ESAt assessments are conducted by qualified health and allied health professionals, such as psychologists and registered nurses employed by a single government provider under the Department of Human Services portfolio.

An ESAt identifies the job seeker's vocational and non-vocational barriers to finding and maintaining employment, their work capacity, support requirements and recommends appropriate interventions. Stream 4 providers may use the findings and recommendations in the ESAt to tailor assistance to the job seeker.

The following table shows the most commonly identified barriers as recorded in the ESAt for all Stream 4 job seekers on the JSA caseload as at 31 August 2011. It is important to note that Stream 4 job seekers are likely to have multiple disadvantages and therefore an individual job seeker may be counted a number of times against barrier categories in the table.

Identified Barriers for JSA Stream 4 Caseload at 31 August 2011		
Identified Barrier	Number of Jobseeker with barrier	% of Stream 4 Caseload
Limited employment history	88,710	56%
Limited skills/experience	59,912	38%
Transport	50,205	32%
Psychological/psychiatric condition	46,981	30%
Job seeking skills	43,194	27%
Accommodation	42,963	27%
Formal Education	39,973	25%
Ex-offender history	32,134	20%
Mood Disorder	28,884	18%
Support network	27,199	17%
Financial	25,746	16%
Confidence	22,183	14%
Relationships/family	21,938	14%
Drug Dependence	21,540	14%
Substance abuse	21,145	13%
Motivation	18,918	12%
Literacy/numeracy	18,629	12%
Caring responsibilities	18,593	12%
Physical limitations restricting type of work	18,213	12%
Alcohol Dependence	17,566	11%
Limited work goals	17,264	11%
Family relationship breakdown	17,223	11%
Endurance limitations	16,483	10%
Concentration limitations	15,574	10%