

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into the adequacy of Newstart and other allowance payments and other matters

The Chair asked on 24 October 2012, Hansard page 28-29.

Question

Chair: You can give us on notice an indicator of what the success rate of stream 1 outcomes are in terms of returning to work.

Mr Watson: We can give exits from income support. We do not pay outcomes to Job Services Australia until further on in the chain for stream 1s. I will take that on notice and we can explain it

Answer

Job Services Australia (JSA) providers are not eligible to claim Job Seeker Outcome for Stream 1 job seekers in the first 12 months.

Of the job seekers who commenced in Stream 1 in the period from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011, 72.5% exited Job Services Australia within 12 months. If a Stream 1 job seeker was up-streamed due to a change of circumstances, they are not included in the exit figures below.

Note that there are a number of reasons why a Stream 1 job seeker will exit Job Services Australia – one reason is because they are no longer receiving income support.

Stream 1 job seeker Exits from Job Services Australia (commenced 1 January 2011 – 31 December 2011)

	Stream 1 Referrals	Within 3 months	Within 6 months	Within 9 months	Within 12 months
Number	343,409	82,171	175,874	222,290	249,135
%		23.9%	51.2%	64.7%	72.5%

Note: Job seekers are classified as Stream 1 at commencement and exit.

Note: The above figures are cumulative.

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Mr Watson offered to provide on 24 October 2012, Hansard page 30-31 and 33.

Question

Mr Watson: Effectively those people will go through the same process as Ms Lees outlined in terms of coming onto Newstart and will access the services in the same way. I did not hear the previous witnesses's comments around the two years. Those people then will come into streams 1, 2, 3 or 4 depending on their level of disadvantage and then can access assistance immediately from that point. The things that become available to them are the referral to training, the referral to assessments, the use of the employment pathway fund. The jobseeker classification—I am sorry, Senator, I might offer on notice to give a sense of things within the jobseeker classification instrument that might impact. I know age is a factor in terms of points; I am just not across how much they get but is a factor in there for people over a certain age. I think it is 55 but I will take that on notice. So they would then access higher streams if they have illness issues or issues around why they are leaving work, if it is a career change transition. There are also mature age programs available to people within the age categories of 50, 55+.

Answer

The Job Seeker Classification Instrument (JSCI) measures a job seeker's relative level of disadvantage in the labour market and is used to assess the job seeker's likelihood of becoming or remaining long term unemployed. Job seekers are asked a series of questions relating to 18 factors including age and gender. The points assigned to the job seeker's responses are added together to calculate the JSCI score which is used to determine a job seeker's eligibility for employment services.

JSCI points regarding age/gender (45 years plus)

Sub-factors	Points - Male	Points - Female
45–49 years	6	6
50–54 years	7	8
55–59 years	10	12
60+ years	15	16

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Senator Siewert asked on 24 October 2012, Hansard page 34.

Question

Senator Siewert: I would like to ask a question that you can take on notice. Do you do any statistical analysis for the group between the ages of 45 and 55? Would you take that on notice and maybe provide all those breakdowns that you have given us, from the age of 45.

Ms Taylor: We are happy to do so. We could segment for those age groups where they are in the streams.

Senator Siewert: Yes

Ms Taylor: We would be happy to do that.

Answer

Active Caseload by Stream (as at 31 August 2012)

Stream	Job Seeker (45-54 years)		Job Seeker (45+ years)		Job Seeker (55+ years)		All Job Seekers	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Eligibility TBD	3,092	2%	6,835	3%	3,743	4.1%	13,773	1.9%
Stream 1 ltd	2,879	2%	5,601	3%	2,722	3%	15,636	2.1%
Stream 1	34,034	27%	49,374	23%	15,340	17%	209,231	28.4%
Stream 2	25,975	21%	53,129	25%	27,154	30%	179,721	24.4%
Stream 3	30,934	25%	62,042	29%	31,108	34.4%	156,614	21.3%
Stream 4	27,246	22%	37,680	18%	10,434	11.5%	160,587	21.8%
Total	124,160	100%	214,661	100%	90,501	100%	735,562	100%