

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic - 06 August 2020

Outcome: Employment

Department of Education, Skills and Employment Question No. IQ20-000131

Senator Rachel Siewert on 06 August 2020, Proof Hansard page 2

Young people in streams A, B and C

Question

Senator SIEWERT: Thank you. In terms of the youth—and obviously we'll get more breakdowns of the figures when you provide the update on notice—how many of the 308,088 young people are in streams A, B and C?

Mr Smyth: Let me see if I have that detail. I'll just check.

Senator SIEWERT: If you don't, can you take that on notice?

Mr Smyth: It might be easier if I do take that one on notice. I've got a breakdown by streams and the like, but I probably don't have it for that particular cohort by stream. We can certainly take that on notice and get back to you quite quickly.

Answer

On 31 July 2020 there were 308,088 participants aged under 25 in jobactive, Transition to Work and ParentsNext combined.

Streams are not used for servicing purposes in Transition to Work or ParentsNext.

The table below shows jobactive participants aged under 25 by stream.

jobactive Caseload aged under 25 by Stream - 31 July 2020

Stream	Caseload
Stream A	156,937
Stream B	55,442
Stream C	11,825
Stream A Volunteer	2,361
Stream Not Determined	34,923
Total	261,488

Notes:

- 1) Data includes participants in Online Employment Services and the New Employment Services Trial.
- 2) 'Stream not determined' denotes participants yet to complete the Job Seeker Classification Instrument.

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Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic - 06 August 2020

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education, Skills and Employment Question No. IQ20-000132

Senator Katy Gallagher on 06 August 2020, Proof Hansard page 7

JobMaker program

Question

CHAIR: Thanks, Senator Keneally. I have a couple of follow-up questions from Senator Keneally's line of questioning. Could you let the committee know on what date the department became aware of the JobMaker program?

Mr Smyth: We could take that on notice

Answer

The Department of Education, Skills and Employment became aware of the name "JobMaker" on 26 May 2020, when the Prime Minister delivered his address to the National Press Club and identified skills as one of several priority reform areas.

Elements of the JobMaker plan, including the initial \$1.3 billion Supporting Apprentices and Trainees wage subsidy program, were announced prior to this date.

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Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic - 06 August 2020

Outcomes: Skills and Training

Department of Education, Skills and Employment Question No. IQ20-000133

Senator Katy Gallagher on 06 August 2020, Proof Hansard page 7–8

Interdepartmental Committees (IDCs)

Question

Ms Williams: I think it would be fair to say that, as Mr Smyth was outlining, we do attend a range of IDCs and meetings related to elements of JobMaker, where they fall into our areas of responsibility. The skills and training elements are a really good example of that, where we do have quite consistent meetings with colleagues around the implementation of that measure. I'm sure that, in a range of other measures that sit under the JobMaker umbrella, there are similar sorts of arrangements in place.

CHAIR: It might be useful for the committee if you could provide us on notice with the IDCs that you participate in across your areas of responsibility.

Ms Williams: Certainly.

Answer

The Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE) participates in the Coronavirus Economic Recovery Working Group, convened by the Treasury.

DESE also meets regularly with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Treasury and the Department of Finance to discuss the establishment of the JobTrainer Fund, implementation of the Supporting Apprentices and Trainees wage subsidy and skills reform.

DESE meets with other policy departments to discuss workforce issues in particular sectors and how the employment and skills systems can support these workforces. This includes working with the Department of Health in relation to how the pandemic and COVID-19 restrictions, including international border restrictions, are impacting all sectors of the economy.

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Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic - 06 August 2020

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Department of Education, Skills and Employment Question No. IQ20-000134

Senator Rachel Siewert on 06 August 2020, Proof Hansard page 9

Job service providers

Question

Mr Smyth: Where we have a specific claim or issue that's been raised through our national customer service line or we receive an email, then those matters are investigated and appropriate action is taken. But, in relation to anecdotal reports that you might hear via the media or social media and the like, unless we have a specific allegation that's made through to the department, we don't investigate those.

Senator SIEWERT: How many specific references to the department have you had?

Ms Shannon: I'd need to take on notice the exact number, but my understanding is that a very small number have been formally drawn to the department's attention. As Mr Smyth has indicated, where we have enough information—through a complaint that might be made through the minister's office, for example—to follow up, we will make an outbound call through our national customer service line. My understanding is that it's actually quite a small number, but I'd have to take the exact number on notice.

Answer

Three complaints received by the Department of Education, Skills and Employment's National Customer Service Line (NCSL) between 20 March 2020 and 31 July 2020 involved allegations of aggressive and/or predatory behaviour by provider staff. The NCSL complaint procedures were applied in each case to assist in resolving the complaint, which included follow up with the relevant providers and the offer of a transfer to a new provider at the job seeker's agreement.

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Outcome: Employment

Department of Education, Skills and Employment Question No. IQ20-000135

Senator Rachel Siewert on 06 August 2020, Proof Hansard page 10

Job service provider - investigation outcome

Question

Senator SIEWERT: I understand the circumstances in terms of your currently investigating it. I would certainly like to know the outcome. Could you take on notice to provide the committee with an update on the outcome of the investigation, within the bounds of privacy, obviously. I may have further questions following that, depending on the outcome.

Answer

The Department of Education, Skills and Employment's investigation is still underway. The department will provide advice on the outcome of this investigation when it is finalised.

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Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic - 06 August 2020

Outcome: Employment

Department of Education, Skills and Employment Question No. IQ20-000136

Senator Rachel Siewert on 06 August 2020, Proof Hansard page 11

Finding employment - digital self-servicing/online process

Question

Senator SIEWERT: How many people have managed to find work out of the digital self-servicing and the online process?

Mr Smyth:

It's hard in the digital environment to work out whether they've actually been placed in jobs. Because they go off income support, they go out of the system. It may be that they have found a role. Around 24 per cent of people in our case load are reporting earnings. So it may be that they have picked up additional work and therefore are not eligible for income support anymore. Ms Ryan might be able to give you some of those numbers.

Ms Ryan: I don't have any figures on hand today, so I can take that on notice. In the early evaluation evidence that we had prior to COVID, we found that those jobseekers who were being serviced online were as likely to exit from income support through servicing themselves as they would have been if they had been serviced by an employment services provider. I will have to see whether I have any figures. Obviously COVID has disrupted everything in terms of people being able to find employment at the moment.

Answer

The Department of Education, Skills and Employment's administrative data does not record job placements for jobactive participants in Online Employment Services.

However, departmental analysis of Post-Program Monitoring Survey (PPM) data¹ and the administrative codes recording participants' exits from employment services has found some codes are strongly associated with exits to employment. These codes provide a 'proxy' for an exit due to employment.

Applying the identified proxy codes, the department estimates around 158,000 participants who left Online Employment Services² between 1 July 2018 and 31 July 2020 did so because they found work.

¹ PPM Surveys capture information about participants' labour force status three months after their participation in employment services. The department's analysis compared administrative exits data with the responses of people who indicated in the PPM survey they were working.

² This data refers to all online employment services, including Online Employment Services, New Employment Services Trial (NEST) Digital Services and the Volunteer Online Employment Services Trial (VOEST). The Online Employment Services Trial (OEST) commenced on 1 July 2018 and was expanded to become Online Employment Services in April 2020. NEST Digital Services commenced on 1 July 2019. VOEST commenced on 1 December 2019.

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Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education, Skills and Employment Question No. IQ20-000137

Senator Kristina Keneally on 06 August 2020, Proof Hansard page 11–12

Skills and Training initiatives - DESE website

Question

Senator KENEALLY: Is it branded JobMaker on your website?

Ms Williams: I think we've got quite a bit of information around the range of initiatives that we have that fall into that JobTrainer/JobMaker category. I'm not familiar with how we have actually branded it; I'll have to look into that.

Senator KENEALLY: So you can't actually point me to any place on the Department of Employment's website where there are elements of the JobMaker plan?

Ms Williams: I certainly could. Let me take that on notice and we'll see if we can find some information on that for you. I'm very confident that we do have information on all of our skills and training initiatives on our website.

Senator KENEALLY: My point is: are they described as JobMaker? I'm just trying to get my head around the idea that there was a big announcement back in May about something called JobMaker, and it seems to be completely amorphous. With the greatest respect—and I understand that it's not your responsibility—it just seemsto be a marketing brand rather than an actual plan. I'm trying to understand if there is anywhere in government where something sits that is called the JobMaker plan and how many jobs it's going to create.

Ms Williams: As we said earlier, it would probably be appropriate to direct questions around the JobMaker plan to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. In terms of the elements that this department administers, we're happy to take questions on that. But, as I said, it is a whole-of-economy plan. It is essentially designed to contribute to and lead the recovery effort across the entire economy and, therefore, there are different components of JobMaker that sit within a range of different portfolios, as would be appropriate.

Answer

The JobMaker plan is the Australian Government's whole-of-government plan for economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Skills and training initiatives are one component of the JobMaker plan.

The Department of Education, Skills and Employment's (DESE) website provides information on skills and training measures recently announced to support the economic recovery. This includes:

- Details on the announcement of the JobTrainer skills package at: www.dese.gov.au/news/jobtrainer-package-announced.
- Links to the JobTrainer skills package announcement through the National Careers Institute's website at: <https://nci.dese.gov.au/> and the DESE COVID-19 webpage: www.dese.gov.au/covid-19.

- Further details on the Supporting Apprentices and Trainees measure at: www.employment.gov.au/supporting-apprentices-and-trainees.
- Further details on the JobTrainer Fund at: www.dese.gov.au/jobtrainer-fund.

As arrangements are finalised with states and territories, additional information on the JobTrainer Fund will be released on the DESE website, the My Skills website and via the National Careers Institute.

The recently enhanced National Careers Institute's website (<https://nci.dese.gov.au/>) is a front door to careers information connecting people of all ages and stages to information, advice and support to help them find the job or study options that's right for them.

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Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education, Skills and Employment Question No. IQ20-000138

Senator Katy Gallagher on 06 August 2020, Proof Hansard page 15

Skills List

Question

CHAIR: Okay. The National Skills Commission's job is basically to provide the advice, as I understand it, around areas of priority need. I've read a couple of the key addresses that have been given. When is that work going to be finalised? When will we have a list of essentially what's going to underpin JobTrainer and what's going to be available and when?

Ms Williams: I'm happy to take that question.

CHAIR: Okay.

Ms Williams: The National Skills Commissioner has a really fundamental role in assisting both the Commonwealth and the states and territories in determining where there are areas of particular skills need and where we need to target, essentially, the funding under the JobTrainer scheme in order to meet that need. The interim National Skills Commissioner is working directly with the states and territories to determine that list. It is a collaborative process; it's not a top-down process. The interim Skills Commissioner will work with each jurisdiction to determine, from the bottom up, where they're seeing skills gaps, and the combined effort of the Skills Commissioner and the states will generate that list, essentially.

CHAIR: Do you know when that list will be available?

Ms Williams: We're working with each state and territory at the moment. We're expecting that a lot of those discussions will take place over the next couple of weeks, and we'll have a consolidated list shortly.

CHAIR: Okay. So it's not a matter of months away?

Ms Williams: No, we're trying to do this as rapidly as possible. As I think Ms McDonald said earlier, the intention is to get as much of this training as possible out in the market as soon as possible—as early as October, essentially.

CHAIR: That's why I would have thought we would have a date by now about when we might have the advice about the particular skills being targeted. But perhaps you can take that on notice and provide it to the committee when you do become aware.

Ms Williams: Certainly.

Answer

The interim National Skills Commissioner is working with the states and territories to have an initial course list for the JobTrainer fund published in mid-September 2020. The list will be live, with new courses able to be added based on changing labour market need.

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Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic - 06 August 2020

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education, Skills and Employment Question No. IQ20-000146

Senator Perin Davey on 06 August 2020, Proof Hansard page 18

Additional Identified Skills Shortage Payment and other incentives - figures

Question

Senator DAVEY: Finally, we've had the additional identified skills shortage payments for some time now. Is that program ongoing, and is it still valid in light of the changes that we're all going through with COVID?

Ms Williams: Yes, those incentives are still available to employers and are still being accessed. It's still valid. It's available to anyone who employs an apprentice or a trainee who falls into those categories of skills need that the ACE covers. We may have some figures around that that we can provide you with, potentially out of session or on notice.

Mr Thiveos: Yes, there are a number of other initiatives. You've mentioned one of them: the incentives we pay for apprentices and trainees. Since March 2020, an additional \$224 million has been paid in other incentives available for employers taking on apprentices and trainees, either at the beginning of the apprenticeship or at the end of it to ensure that we get them to complete their apprenticeship.

Ms Williams: So there's quite a significant amount of support to help an employer retain an apprentice and keep them in their workplace, essentially.

Answer

- The number of apprentices signed up in an Additional Identified Skills Shortage (AISS) payment occupation, and the number of apprentices registered as 'additional' to an employer's usual intake has increased progressively since 1 July 2019. As at 6 August 2020:
 - 21,594 apprentices have been signed up in an AISS occupation;
 - 13,241 were registered as additional to an employer's usual intake; and
 - 7,496 (35 per cent) of all AISS eligible apprentices are located in Rural and Regional Australia.

- Payments to eligible employers and apprentices became available from 1 July 2020, 12 months from the commencement of an apprenticeship in an eligible occupation.
 - As at 6 August 2020, over \$1.18 million has been paid, assisting more than 450 employers and more than 200 apprentices.

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Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic - 06 August 2020

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education, Skills and Employment Question No. IQ20-000158

Senator Kristina Keneally on 06 August 2020, Proof Hansard page 21

Apprenticeships and Traineeships - decline in figures

Question

Senator KENEALLY: That's very helpful. Thank you. I understand there has been a report from the Mitchell Institute showing a 30 per cent decline in new apprenticeships over the next three years. The Australian Apprenticeship Support Network is suggesting that there will be 80,000 fewer apprentices by mid next year. I'm trying to understand—has the department modelled the impacts of declining commencement figures for apprenticeships and traineeships?

Ms Williams: We are looking at this question of commencement numbers very carefully. We're conscious, obviously, of the range of numbers that are out in the public domain. I think that, when we last provided evidence to this hearing on this point, we talked about the difficulty in securing national data through the NCVER, because of that time lag. But we do have access, I guess, to our own program data in terms of what we're seeing within the apprenticeship incentive system, as well as access to more contemporary data from our colleagues from the states and territories that we've been working with them on through the Skills Council, the skills ministers process. That data—noting that it is very preliminary data and it's not that sort of nationally confirmed data—is showing that there are still apprentices being put on. So I think we need to be very conscious that businesses are still continuing to employ apprentices. We still saw 42,499 commencements over the March-June period, while we were in the midst of COVID, so businesses are still employing apprentices. Commencement data does look like it is down, but it varies from state to state, and there is also a very big difference, from what we can tell from the preliminary data that we have, between commencements in trade occupations and commencements in non-trade occupations. The apprenticeship and trainee data that we have covers not simply trade occupations but also if someone has a traineeship, for example, in retail or hospitality, where you would expect to see quite big drops in commencements due to the situation that we have with shutdowns et cetera. So we are seeing a drop. That data is telling us that there's about a 22 per cent drop at this stage in the period between March and June compared to the same time last year, and I guess it's not unexpected. That drop is mostly sitting in the non-trades area. The drop in trade commencements is looking to sit around 10 per cent compared to this time last year. There were about 2,264 fewer commencements than we saw last year. The largest decline is among non-trade apprentices: admin and support services, accommodation and food services et cetera—retail particularly. That does vary significantly across jurisdictions as well. You are seeing larger drops in some of the bigger jurisdictions, not surprisingly—obviously Victoria. But other drops are not as significant. South Australia, for example, has seen a very minor drop in commencements.

Senator KENEALLY: Is that data publicly available?

Ms Williams: That data is not publicly available. I guess that's what we're seeing within our own program data, and I have a caveat: that is program data, and it hasn't been confirmed. It is consistent, however, with what we're seeing through the NCVER's preliminary look at this issue and the work that the NCVER is doing with the states and territories around what they're seeing in their own systems. It's very preliminary data. It is data that we haven't confirmed or cleaned up at a national level, but I'm reasonably confident that those are

trends that we would see across a range of datasets. We will see changes in that. As different jurisdictions start to open up and business activity resumes, you would expect that, in those jurisdictions that are in more significant shutdown, you would continue to see a suppression of commencement numbers. But, as I said, it is very different in each jurisdiction. There's not a uniform national number.

Senator KENEALLY: I understand those caveats you've just put on, but is it possible to get a summary of that data by trade and non-trade and by state?

Ms Williams: Yes, I'm happy to do that, with those caveats that it is only preliminary data and it's only the program data that we have access to. So it indicates a trend but it's not a firm set of numbers.

Answer

1. The data provided is program data from the Department of Education, Skills and Employment's Training Youth and Internet Management System (TYIMS) (Table 1 refers).
2. The data is point in time and has not been verified by states and territories. Fully verified data for the period March – June 2020 will be publicly available from the NCVET in late November 2020.
3. The table provides the number of commencements entered into the TYIMS system for the period March – June 2020 compared to the number of commencements entered for the same period in 2019.

Table 1 - Commencements entered by State Training Authority and trade status (Data Entry Activity for the period **March – June 2020 and 2019**)

State	Trade/Non-Trade	March-June 2019	March-June 2020
ACT	Non-trade	1,051	667
ACT	Trade	372	341
ACT Total		1,423	1,008
NSW	Non-trade	9,708	7,265
NSW	Trade	7,401	6,547
NSW Total		17,109	13,812
NT	Non-trade	656	491
NT	Trade	261	213
NT Total		917	704
QLD	Non-trade	8,233	5,623
QLD	Trade	5,275	4,447
QLD Total		13,508	10,070
SA	Non-trade	1,996	1,833
SA	Trade	1,265	1,302
SA Total		3,261	3,135
TAS	Non-trade	1,572	860
TAS	Trade	569	380
TAS Total		2,141	1,240
VIC	Non-trade	5,147	2,936
VIC	Trade	5,331	4,922
VIC Total		10,478	7,858
WA	Non-trade	3,884	2,848
WA	Trade	1,766	1,824
WA Total		5,650	4,672
Total		54,487	42,499

Data Source: TYIMS as at 23 July 2020.

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Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education, Skills and Employment Question No. IQ20-000159

Senator Kristina Keneally on 06 August 2020, Proof Hansard page 22

National Careers Ambassador

Question

Ms Williams: In recognition, I think, of the circumstances that we face with the pandemic and the difficulty of conducting many of those face-to-face activities that were a core component of his role, Mr Cam agreed to forego the remainder of his remuneration. That said, in recent months he's undertaken quite a number of face-to-face activities in terms of online posts. I think he's undertaken more than 200 online posts across a range of social media channels. He has promoted the government support programs for COVID-19, particularly in the apprenticeship and traineeship space, as well as the range of career options that are available to people. So Mr Cam has been extremely active in the role, noting that of course his ability to do so is limited by the pandemic and that activity has therefore been predominantly online and via social media.

Senator KENEALLY: Can we get a date for when he made the decision to forego the rest of his remuneration?

Ms Williams: I'm certainly able to take that on notice.

Senator KENEALLY: And the value of the remuneration he forfeited.

Ms Williams: Certainly. His contract runs until 30 December. I think I provided evidence to that effect previously. I also provided evidence that the total of his contract was \$350,000. I think we've reduced it to \$175,000, which is half the original contract value, to reflect this change in his activities.

CHAIR: You just said you 'think' it's been reduced.

Ms Williams: No. I understand it has been reduced.

CHAIR: To \$175,000.

Ms Williams: Yes. That, again, reflects that change in the activity that he's undertaking. But Mr Cam remains absolutely committed to the role and to continuing to work with the government over the course of his contract to promote particularly those measures that assist people in finding work in these really difficult times.

Senator KENEALLY: Sure. I'm just asking if we can confirm that figure and the date.

Ms Williams: I'm happy to confirm the figure. It's \$175,000, which is half of the original contract value. I'll have to take the date at which that decision was taken on notice.

Answer

The contract was revised and signed by both parties on 6 July 2020.

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Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic - 06 August 2020

Outcome: Employment

Department of Education, Skills and Employment Question No. IQ20-000160

Senator Kristina Keneally on 06 August 2020, Proof Hansard page 24

Case-load data - regional breakdown

Question

Senator KENEALLY: Lastly—on notice, if necessary—can we please get the most recent departmental information or data on the employment and underemployment effects of the recession by demographics and regions?

Mr Smyth: We're able to provide you with our case-load data in terms of people on jobactive. As I outlined earlier to Senator Siewert, we will take that on notice, but we're happy to provide that in terms of regional breakdown. We have 51 employment regions across Australia for jobactive. We don't cover remote; that's covered by the CDP program. But we're happy to provide you with that information in terms of a breakdown by cohorts. Are you looking at gender or age, or are you looking at both?

Senator KENEALLY: Gender and age.

Mr Smyth: We can do that, Senator.

Answer

The following tables provide the jobactive caseload for each Employment Region as at 29 February 2020 and 31 July 2020.

jobactive Caseload by Employment Region - 29 February 2020 and 31 July 2020

Employment Region	29 February 2020	31 July 2020
Adelaide North	24,825	47,979
Adelaide South	17,472	38,987
Ballarat	5,466	10,537
Barwon	6,827	17,221
Bendigo	5,054	9,747
Brisbane South East	26,082	59,494
Broome	896	1,438
Cairns	12,020	22,763
Capital Region	8,366	20,422
Central West	6,505	11,109
Darling Downs	8,861	16,328
Darwin	5,211	9,342
Esperance	373	693
Far West Orana	5,216	7,629
Fitzroy	9,442	14,990

Employment Region	29 February 2020	31 July 2020
Geraldton	2,270	3,415
Gippsland	10,213	18,978
Gold Coast	17,907	52,004
Goulburn/Murray	11,154	21,666
Great Southern - Wheatbelt	5,161	8,706
Hobart and Southern Tasmania	8,785	17,392
Hunter	19,612	38,419
Illawarra South Coast	14,245	29,768
Inner Metropolitan Melbourne	18,331	67,708
Kalgoorlie	993	1,631
Mackay	5,068	10,232
Mid North Coast	12,575	23,047
Mid North SA	4,065	6,954
Murray and South East	5,315	8,861
Murray Riverina	6,087	11,165
New England and North West	8,414	12,485
Norfolk Island	29	97
North and North Western Tasmania	10,396	17,977
North Coast	10,239	20,579
North Eastern Melbourne	18,314	54,833
North West Country SA	3,134	4,574
North Western Melbourne	10,122	27,431
Perth North	30,246	62,733
Perth South	36,723	70,247
Somerset	25,067	60,228
South Coast of Victoria	3,353	6,708
South Eastern Melbourne and Peninsula	22,438	65,609
South West WA	6,769	12,662
Sydney East Metro	19,183	71,591
Sydney Greater West	26,171	67,729
Sydney North and West	16,846	56,130
Sydney South West	24,593	60,213
Townsville	10,267	17,360
Western Melbourne	21,332	56,609
Wide Bay and Sunshine Coast	24,612	50,538
Wimmera Mallee	5,531	9,563
Wivenhoe	14,763	30,764
Total	633,318	1,446,019

jobactive Caseload by Employment Region and Age Group - 29 February 2020

Employment Region (at 29/02/2020)	<22	22-24	25-29	30-34	34-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60+
Adelaide North	2,318	2,415	3,053	2,664	2,753	2,549	2,522	2,043	1,800	2,708
Adelaide South	1,473	1,514	2,004	1,717	1,790	1,833	1,851	1,352	1,369	2,569
Ballarat	635	504	643	523	501	524	519	446	426	745
Barwon	695	668	783	605	701	659	728	505	552	931
Bendigo	472	438	563	484	527	532	546	370	391	731
Brisbane South East	3,244	2,642	3,367	2,759	2,849	2,610	2,475	1,870	1,615	2,651
Broome	83	73	143	149	117	99	90	64	42	36
Cairns	1,357	845	1,432	1,271	1,322	1,331	1,320	1,030	919	1,193
Capital Region	754	739	1,037	952	976	947	852	705	582	822
Central West	853	559	721	651	684	660	665	501	484	727
Darling Downs	1,222	820	1,052	897	954	933	872	623	577	911
Darwin	520	403	735	664	652	615	569	429	309	315
Esperance	29	20	49	44	38	49	44	31	34	35
Far West Orana	547	463	657	560	555	523	574	439	409	489
Fitzroy	1,264	798	1,145	986	1,040	945	958	706	667	933
Geraldton	263	171	271	262	275	259	237	185	155	192
Gippsland	895	801	1,083	988	1,006	1,064	1,048	853	857	1,618
Gold Coast	1,658	1,479	1,975	1,657	1,838	2,028	2,080	1,520	1,373	2,299
Goulburn/Murray	1,116	861	1,258	1,114	1,176	1,189	1,169	938	857	1,476
Great Southern - Wheatbelt	476	338	500	519	547	540	558	521	469	693
Hobart and Southern Tasmania	1,099	938	1,109	973	909	868	793	583	567	946
Hunter	2,206	1,764	2,380	1,962	2,034	2,067	1,956	1,436	1,420	2,387
Illawarra South Coast	1,541	1,167	1,482	1,300	1,411	1,424	1,396	1,099	1,166	2,259
Inner Metropolitan Melbourne	911	1,812	2,647	2,037	2,019	1,906	2,000	1,592	1,451	1,956
Kalgoorlie	102	71	121	123	94	114	128	112	61	67
Mackay	498	370	637	547	607	523	530	406	397	553
Mid North Coast	1,265	954	1,280	1,176	1,184	1,202	1,239	1,012	1,111	2,152
Mid North SA	422	261	391	400	374	367	370	384	379	717

Employment Region (at 29/02/2020)	<22	22-24	25-29	30-34	34-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60+
Murray and South East	549	430	555	541	551	531	534	430	451	743
Murray Riverina	671	477	695	614	695	617	679	459	493	687
New England and North West	1,119	751	1,008	891	848	804	823	659	639	872
Norfolk Island	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	n.p.	<10	<10	<10
North and North Western Tasmania	1,253	908	1,122	976	1,057	967	902	812	838	1,561
North Coast	945	683	976	940	1,019	1,068	1,225	846	975	1,562
North Eastern Melbourne	1,349	1,675	2,203	1,839	1,934	2,032	2,081	1,583	1,420	2,198
North West Country SA	312	269	412	395	412	309	312	279	210	224
North Western Melbourne	842	950	1,158	1,093	1,177	1,129	1,171	905	711	986
Perth North	2,708	2,439	3,471	3,146	3,382	3,270	3,401	2,746	2,381	3,302
Perth South	3,627	3,147	4,349	3,961	4,066	3,952	3,955	3,049	2,697	3,920
Somerset	2,918	2,485	3,359	2,653	2,675	2,556	2,345	1,800	1,580	2,696
South Coast of Victoria	319	230	363	323	341	373	356	266	273	509
South Eastern Melbourne and Peninsula	1,822	2,081	2,498	2,152	2,357	2,433	2,623	1,924	1,690	2,858
South West WA	660	478	652	691	770	780	720	593	527	898
Sydney East Metro	877	1,134	1,825	1,702	2,012	2,191	2,500	2,106	2,036	2,800
Sydney Greater West	2,102	2,007	2,837	2,688	2,911	2,949	2,944	2,318	2,281	3,134
Sydney North and West	1,390	1,290	1,789	1,470	1,692	1,802	1,928	1,560	1,490	2,435
Sydney South West	1,689	1,664	2,351	2,271	2,642	2,797	2,918	2,506	2,444	3,311
Townsville	1,132	975	1,404	1,158	1,147	1,153	1,016	813	607	862
Western Melbourne	1,606	1,896	2,493	2,099	2,326	2,386	2,468	1,955	1,721	2,382
Wide Bay and Sunshine Coast	2,967	1,819	2,287	2,050	2,287	2,291	2,486	2,019	2,170	4,236
Wimmera Mallee	566	458	634	575	584	543	501	491	464	715
Wivenhoe	2,019	1,565	1,944	1,574	1,592	1,483	1,361	1,024	954	1,247
Total	61,387	53,725	72,932	63,842	67,461	66,815	67,396	52,940	49,523	77,297

n.p. = not provided (to prevent calculation of the suppressed figure by subtracting other categories from the total).

jobactive Caseload by Employment Region and Age Group - 31 July 2020

Employment Region (at 31/07/2020)	<22	22-24	25-29	30-34	34-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60+
Adelaide North	3,814	4,920	6,486	5,780	5,438	4,794	4,592	4,046	3,535	4,574
Adelaide South	2,830	4,083	5,385	4,294	4,010	3,646	3,849	3,151	3,126	4,613
Ballarat	997	1,084	1,415	1,061	973	970	1,005	870	864	1,298
Barwon	1,459	1,896	2,562	1,811	1,678	1,624	1,630	1,326	1,324	1,911
Bendigo	877	897	1,249	1,003	966	939	955	806	810	1,245
Brisbane South East	5,763	6,384	8,542	7,109	6,604	5,755	5,491	4,514	4,004	5,328
Broome	127	102	219	225	184	153	139	107	84	98
Cairns	2,100	1,664	2,680	2,501	2,539	2,410	2,511	2,138	1,927	2,293
Capital Region	1,676	2,420	3,253	2,649	2,288	1,912	1,793	1,440	1,327	1,664
Central West	1,282	1,023	1,382	1,190	1,112	1,041	1,069	906	869	1,235
Darling Downs	1,992	1,530	2,164	1,697	1,706	1,568	1,593	1,250	1,177	1,651
Darwin	888	806	1,409	1,194	1,127	1,004	901	794	600	619
Esperance	60	47	81	82	59	78	75	64	64	83
Far West Orana	771	653	983	856	798	729	780	657	643	759
Fitzroy	1,799	1,318	1,958	1,561	1,615	1,370	1,463	1,206	1,165	1,535
Geraldton	391	294	405	375	376	333	331	308	265	337
Gippsland	1,528	1,534	2,258	1,983	1,859	1,787	1,881	1,645	1,717	2,786
Gold Coast	4,274	4,914	6,815	5,612	5,337	5,284	5,605	4,675	4,259	5,229
Goulburn/Murray	2,019	1,998	2,743	2,272	2,111	2,057	2,201	1,891	1,766	2,608
Great Southern - Wheatbelt	868	619	883	880	842	850	900	844	886	1,134
Hobart and Southern Tasmania	1,673	1,742	2,445	2,119	1,835	1,666	1,560	1,270	1,316	1,766
Hunter	3,730	3,960	5,253	4,087	3,861	3,697	3,625	2,979	3,044	4,183
Illawarra South Coast	2,866	3,092	3,763	2,945	2,759	2,727	2,822	2,368	2,580	3,846
Inner Metropolitan Melbourne	2,737	8,603	12,826	9,890	7,734	5,897	5,882	5,095	4,321	4,723
Kalgoorlie	146	140	221	186	185	186	174	166	108	119
Mackay	918	814	1,333	1,135	1,113	1,034	1,040	856	840	1,149
Mid North Coast	2,193	1,756	2,615	2,285	2,192	2,097	2,272	1,992	2,250	3,395
Mid North SA	643	491	709	655	656	603	649	675	714	1,159

Employment Region (at 31/07/2020)	<22	22-24	25-29	30-34	34-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60+
Murray and South East	895	735	1,020	892	842	818	876	767	848	1,168
Murray Riverina	1,202	1,039	1,376	1,185	1,126	1,055	1,069	898	916	1,299
New England and North West	1,425	1,119	1,558	1,331	1,232	1,194	1,198	1,021	1,007	1,400
Norfolk Island	<10	n.p.	<10	<10	<10	11	12	16	17	19
North and North Western Tasmania	1,746	1,530	2,078	1,759	1,817	1,694	1,718	1,527	1,607	2,501
North Coast	1,876	1,501	2,354	2,178	2,115	2,007	2,255	1,790	1,862	2,641
North Eastern Melbourne	3,567	6,142	7,813	6,689	6,271	5,398	5,497	4,443	4,041	4,972
North West Country SA	403	394	613	573	543	442	462	384	373	387
North Western Melbourne	1,944	2,917	3,799	3,739	3,356	2,801	2,756	2,295	1,786	2,038
Perth North	5,055	6,261	8,392	7,132	7,010	6,211	6,175	5,410	4,961	6,126
Perth South	6,071	6,988	9,133	7,977	7,711	7,122	6,981	5,894	5,421	6,949
Somerset	5,457	6,780	9,298	7,286	6,562	5,696	5,475	4,481	3,939	5,254
South Coast of Victoria	539	610	801	662	645	655	698	553	609	936
South Eastern Melbourne and Peninsula	4,614	7,097	9,049	7,721	7,403	6,500	6,749	5,578	4,713	6,185
South West WA	1,142	986	1,335	1,326	1,389	1,442	1,313	1,106	1,032	1,591
Sydney East Metro	3,117	6,834	10,283	9,373	8,318	7,302	7,266	6,291	6,116	6,691
Sydney Greater West	4,937	6,598	9,036	8,304	8,246	7,131	6,565	5,556	5,100	6,256
Sydney North and West	3,506	6,409	7,684	6,120	5,889	5,441	5,560	4,956	4,750	5,815
Sydney South West	4,429	5,962	7,734	6,682	6,749	6,209	6,223	5,232	5,001	5,992
Townsville	1,897	1,675	2,444	1,951	1,890	1,780	1,641	1,417	1,201	1,464
Western Melbourne	3,515	5,538	7,996	7,566	7,294	6,032	5,716	4,592	3,882	4,478
Wide Bay and Sunshine Coast	5,049	4,101	5,573	4,486	4,713	4,809	5,217	4,443	4,817	7,330
Wimmera Mallee	935	838	1,195	1,001	1,022	929	833	833	824	1,153
Wivenhoe	3,291	3,501	4,341	3,614	3,442	2,973	2,890	2,281	2,047	2,384
Total	117,098	144,390	197,033	167,067	157,626	141,931	142,011	119,880	112,533	146,450

n.p = not provided (to prevent calculation of the suppressed figure by subtracting other categories from the total).

Jobactive Caseload by Employment Region and Gender

Employment Region	29 February 2020		31 July 2020	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Adelaide North	12,086	12,739	22,631	25,348
Adelaide South	8,537	8,935	18,689	20,298
Ballarat	2,833	2,633	5,285	5,252
Barwon	3,654	3,173	8,778	8,443
Bendigo	2,717	2,337	5,011	4,736
Brisbane South East	12,804	13,278	27,712	31,782
Broome	361	535	608	830
Cairns	5,455	6,565	10,466	12,297
Capital Region	4,041	4,325	9,597	10,825
Central West	3,181	3,324	5,359	5,750
Darling Downs	4,331	4,530	8,012	8,316
Darwin	2,356	2,855	4,117	5,225
Esperance	181	192	335	358
Far West Orana	2,291	2,925	3,490	4,139
Fitzroy	4,394	5,048	6,970	8,020
Geraldton	1,048	1,222	1,565	1,850
Gippsland	5,184	5,029	9,393	9,585
Gold Coast	9,354	8,553	25,629	26,375
Goulburn/Murray	5,623	5,531	10,851	10,815
Great Southern - Wheatbelt	2,457	2,704	4,114	4,592
Hobart and Southern Tasmania	4,216	4,569	8,378	9,014
Hunter	9,689	9,923	18,603	19,816
Illawarra South Coast	7,138	7,107	14,441	15,327
Inner Metropolitan Melbourne	8,962	9,369	32,518	35,190
Kalgoorlie	451	542	726	905
Mackay	2,524	2,544	5,008	5,224
Mid North Coast	6,075	6,500	10,968	12,079
Mid North SA	1,932	2,133	3,369	3,585
Murray and South East	2,457	2,858	4,295	4,566
Murray Riverina	3,005	3,082	5,475	5,690
New England and North West	3,926	4,488	5,962	6,523
Norfolk Island	21	<10	61	36
North and North Western Tasmania	5,135	5,261	8,898	9,079
North Coast	5,106	5,133	10,024	10,555
North Eastern Melbourne	9,944	8,370	27,226	27,607
North West Country SA	1,309	1,825	1,975	2,599
North Western Melbourne	5,356	4,766	13,038	14,393
Perth North	14,977	15,269	29,935	32,798
Perth South	18,119	18,604	33,301	36,946
Somerset	11,931	13,136	28,108	32,120
South Coast of Victoria	1,773	1,580	3,475	3,233
South Eastern Melbourne and Peninsula	12,513	9,925	32,581	33,028
South West WA	3,536	3,233	6,483	6,179
Sydney East Metro	9,749	9,434	34,027	37,564

Employment Region	29 February 2020		31 July 2020	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Sydney Greater West	13,983	12,188	32,183	35,546
Sydney North and West	8,789	8,057	27,561	28,569
Sydney South West	13,897	10,696	29,360	30,853
Townsville	4,656	5,611	8,003	9,357
Western Melbourne	11,487	9,845	27,530	29,079
Wide Bay and Sunshine Coast	12,502	12,110	25,254	25,284
Wimmera Mallee	2,733	2,798	4,524	5,039
Wivenhoe	7,019	7,744	14,301	16,463
Total	317,993	315,325	696,557	749,462

Note:

- 1) Employment Region is based on the participant's residential address.
- 2) Total includes a small number of participants whose address information is incomplete or unknown.
- 3) Includes participants in Online Employment Services and the New Employment Services Trial.

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic - 06 August 2020

Outcome: Skills and Training

Department of Education, Skills and Employment Question No. IQ20-000161

Senator Kristina Keneally on 06 August 2020, Proof Hansard page 5

Responsibility for components of JobMaker

Question

Senator KENEALLY: I'm just trying to understand if there's somewhere in government where we can see a plan as to how international trade agreements and support for exporters fit under this new JobMaker plan and how many jobs they might create.

Ms Williams: Certainly we can test that, but it's my understanding that that doesn't fall into our area of responsibility.

Senator KENEALLY: Right. The next thing listed as a part of the JobMaker plan is:

"Caring for country" at heart of environmental management.

Ms Williams: Again I understand that that would be in the environment portfolio, but we can confirm that.

Senator KENEALLY: Right. Again, is there an actual plan anywhere?

Ms Williams: We are not aware of that, obviously. It doesn't fall into our areas of responsibility. That may be best directed to the responsible department.

Senator KENEALLY: And you think that's the environment department?

Ms Williams: We can confirm that for you, but, yes, that would be my understanding.

Senator KENEALLY: Again, the same article from news.com.au says:

An opportunity for "those who have a go, to get a go", including access to essential services. Do you know what that means?

Ms Williams: I'm personally not familiar with that, but, again, I'm happy to look into that for you. As I noted earlier, there are a number of elements to the government's focus on the recovery effort. It is a whole-of- government exercise and a whole-of-economy exercise, as you would appreciate. There are a range of elements spread across the APS. I wouldn't be familiar with all of them.

Answer

The JobMaker plan is the Australian Government's whole-of-government plan for economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

JobMaker initiatives led by the Department of Education, Skills and Employment are the:

- Supporting Apprentices and Trainees wage subsidy
- JobTrainer Fund
- Heads of Agreement for Skills Reform discussions
- National Careers Institute Enhanced Support for School Leavers measure

Questions about other initiatives supporting the JobMaker plan led by other departments and/or agencies should be directed to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.