

**Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

**Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy**

**DEEWR Question No.CA0011\_11**

**Senator Siewert asked on 22/10/2010, Hansard page 32.**

**Question**

**CLOSING THE GAP REPORT**

Senator SIEWERT—In the report, there were issues for me around work experience. There seems to be some contradictory information, and maybe you could take this on notice. I am after the most recent figures for the number of job seekers in JSA and those participating in work experience. Dr Harmer—Are you talking about the table on page 42, Senator? Senator SIEWERT—Yes. Dr Harmer—Okay. Senator SIEWERT—Can we get some up-to-date figures, because on the next page it says: At 30 June 2010, there were 1,608 job seekers ... Of these job seekers, 856 ... were participating in a Work Experience activity. Could you just explain the difference between those figures. Ms Wood—We can take that on notice. Senator SIEWERT—Thank you.

**Answer**

The most up-to-date Work Experience data are available in the *Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory Monitoring Report* published on the Internet site of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs at <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/>.

At 30 June 2010, there were 8,943 job seekers on the Job Services Australia active caseload in the 73 prescribed communities. Of these job seekers, 2,196 were in the Work Experience Phase, of whom, 1,142 were participating in a Work Experience Activity. There were a further 1,904 job seekers outside the Work Experience Phase who were undertaking a Work Experience Activity, bringing the total number to 3,046 who were in activities.

At 1 January 2010, there were 9,163 job seekers on the Job Services Australia active caseload in the 73 prescribed communities. Of these job seekers, 2,434 were in the Work Experience Phase, of whom, 1,099 were participating in a Work Experience Activity. There were a further 1,248 job seekers outside the Work Experience Phase who were undertaking a Work Experience Activity, bringing the total number to 2,347 who were in activities.

Fully eligible job seekers are able to participate in Work Experience Activities at any time. The number of Work Experience Activities undertaken will therefore be greater than the number of Work Experience Activities undertaken by job seekers in the Work Experience Phase.