

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-003973

Senator Marshall provided in writing.

Question

Work for the Dole - participation numbers

"How many people have participated in Work for the Dole in total since it was restructured by the Abbott Government in 2014?

What are the targets for the percentage of people finding work after participating in Work for the Dole?

Now that Youth Jobs PaTH is due to start, does the government intend to shut down Work for the Dole? "

Answer

The changes to the Work for the Dole program were phased in from 1 July 2014, and fully implemented on 1 July 2015, under jobactive. From 1 July 2014 to 31 December 2016, 158,921 unique job seekers have commenced in Work for the Dole.

The Department does not have a target for the percentage of job seekers finding work after participation in Work for the Dole.

This is because Work for the Dole contributes to increasing job seeker activation as part of the overall jobactive model. The objective of Work for the Dole is to provide work-like experiences for job seekers as a means of improving their job prospects and meeting their Annual Activity Requirement, while at the same time providing a benefit to the local community.

The jobactive program as a whole is designed to give job seekers the practical support they need to move from welfare to work. As a result, the department has a performance measure, as published in the Annual Report, for the proportion of job seekers employed three months following participation in the jobactive program. Latest available data, as measured by the Department's Post Program Monitoring survey, for job seekers who participated in jobactive between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2016, shows that 48.1 per cent were employed three months after participating in jobactive, against the performance target of 45 per cent.

The government intends to continue Work for the Dole.