

## **Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017**

#### **Outcome 1 - Employment**

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-003989**

**Senator Marshall provided in writing.**

#### **Question**

##### **Long Term Unemployed and Indigenous wage subsidy claims**

How many Long Term Unemployed and Indigenous Wage Subsidies have been claimed in the last 12 months?

What was the total value of the Long Term Unemployed and Indigenous Wage Subsidy claims in the last 12 months?

What was the forecasted expenditure of Long Term Unemployed and Indigenous Wage claims for the last 12 months?

What the target for the number of Long Term Unemployed and Indigenous Wage Subsidies for the last 12 months?

#### **Answer**

In the 12 months to 31 March 2017, there were 7,428 Long Term Unemployed Wage Subsidy agreements and 3,001 Indigenous Wage Subsidy agreements for a total of 10,429 Long Term Unemployed and Indigenous Wage Subsidy arrangements.

21,329 job seekers were forecast to take up a Long Term Unemployed and Indigenous Wage Subsidy agreement and reach the 12 week payment milestone over the same period.

Claims totaling \$15,676,279 were paid in the 12 months to 31 March 2017, while the forecast for expenditure over the same period was \$63,126,899. This forecast includes the Wage Subsidy arrangements from 1 January 2017 that reach the 12 week milestone in March 2017.

Forecast expenditure is based on the assumption that, of those job seekers that reach the 12 week milestone, half of the wage subsidy would have been paid at this point. Due to provider claiming behavior, job seeker attrition and the flexibility in the way that wage subsidies can be paid, wage subsidy expenditure may not correlate with wage subsidy take up. The Department expects the forecast expenditure patterns will become more apparent as data is collected over time.