

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

**Outcome 3 - Employment**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0123\_14**

**Senator Sinodinos asked on 4 June 2013, Hansard page 18**

**Question**

**Wage Connect Subsidies**

Senator SINODINOS: According to one of your fact sheets, in some circumstances the subsidies can last for longer than 26 weeks. Ms Drayton: That is correct. Senator SINODINOS: How do you judge that? Ms Drayton: If someone does not have full-time job search requirements—they have part-time requirements—it can be extended to 52 weeks. Senator SINODINOS: Which makes up the equivalent of 26 weeks full time or whatever. Ms Drayton: That is right. The amount of the subsidy does not change. The length of time it is available changes. Senator SINODINOS: Has this occurred to date? Has there been much of this? Mr Watson: It is in place so as not to disadvantage people with lower requirements, particularly people with disabilities or particular cohorts of job seekers which have the lesser requirements. I would have to take on notice the number, but I would note that about half the places are people with disabilities from the Disability Employment Services program, and a lot of those people would have reduced requirements, and therefore they are eligible for the 52 weeks. Ms Drayton: We will follow that one up for you.

**Answer**

As at 31 March 2013, of the 15 565 Wage Connect commencements, 10 141 were for job seekers with a partial capacity and therefore able to receive the Wage Connect subsidy for a period greater than 26 weeks.