

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM0760_15

Senator Collins provided in writing.

Question

Tasmanian Jobs Programme

When will Wage Connect be unpaused? I note that the Tasmanian Jobs program trial is for 2000 placements over the two year trial – can you please advise what the current rate of placements is? I understand that the first payments will be made from 1 July 2014 (being 6 months after the start date) can you advise how many employers are on track to receive the payment? I understand Senator Abetz wrote a letter to Tasmanian small businesses regarding the Jobs Package, can the Department advise what other measures the Government has undertaken in order to promote the subsidy? Given the slow take up rate to date, can the Department advise how many of the 2000 placements available the Government now realistically expects to fill? Given the slow take up rate to date, is the Department aware whether the Government will be expanding the program to other areas? - If so, which areas will the program be expanded to? - When will the program in these areas commence? - How much funding over how many years will be available in these areas? - How many placements will be available in these areas? Given the slow take up rate to date, compared to the highly successful Wage Connect scheme, can Tasmanian businesses elect to receive the Wage Connect subsidy rather than that offered by the Tasmanian Jobs Program? - If not, why not?

Answer

Wage Connect was paused to new applicants from 6 December 2013. No formal decision has been made about reopening Wage Connect.

Since the Tasmanian Jobs Programme commenced on 1 January 2014, 59 Tasmanians have commenced in a full time job.

In addition to letters to employers from The Minister for Employment, a print advertising campaign ran from 6 April 2014 to 11 May 2014. Advertisements were placed in metropolitan, regional and community newspapers throughout Tasmania. Further print advertising commenced on 15 June and will run until 28 June 2014. Radio advertising commenced on 12 June 2014 and will continue until 5 July 2014.

A communication pack consisting of website and social media material has been distributed to a range of industry and employer stakeholders in Tasmania.

It is difficult to forecast how many of the allocated 2000 placements will be achieved. The programme is scheduled to run for two years or until the allocated placements are exhausted.

Wage Connect is currently paused and therefore unavailable to Tasmanian businesses.