

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM0866_15

Senator Whish-Wilson asked on 3 June 2014 proof Hansard page 66

Question

Breakdown of Wage Connect

Senator WHISH-WILSON: So it has gone from five to 48. I know with questions on notice you did provide a breakdown on the Wage Connect program. Are you collecting information for this program as well by industry and company size?

Senator Abetz: We do have that. Do you want it now or on notice? Senator WHISH-

WILSON: On notice will be fine. Are you collecting the information on company size as well—what size enterprises are employing these individuals? Mr Watson: There are 42 employers who have employed people under the Tasmanian jobs program. I would categorise them as all small businesses. Senator WHISH-WILSON: As in

less than 15? Mr Watson: I have been using less than 20. Senator WHISH-

WILSON: Less than 20, okay. So it is a small to medium enterprise? Senator Abetz:

Yes. I have been through the names and I must say all the names struck me as

being in the small category. Senator WHISH-WILSON: Could you give me a very

rough breakdown of the types of businesses, then? Mr Watson: I can do it by

industry. Senator WHISH-WILSON: By industry, yes. Mr Watson: We have had

eight placements in manufacturing, eight placements in construction, eight placements in retail trade, three in accommodation and food services, three in agriculture, forestry and fishing—that is quite a large cohort—two in health care and

social assistance, two in transport, postal and warehousing, one in rental hiring and real estate, one in electricity, gas, water and waste services, one in education and

training, one in wholesale trade, and seven in other. Senator WHISH-WILSON:

Were any of those the same employers who utilised the Wage Connect program? Mr

Watson: I would have to take that on notice. Ms Drayton: That list that Mr Watson

was just referring to is the Tasmanian jobs. Senator WHISH-WILSON: Correct. Ms

Drayton: We would have to do a reconciliation to check between the two programs,

but we can take that on notice. Senator WHISH-WILSON: Great. If you could.

Answer

As at 28 May 2014, three employers participating in the Tasmanian Jobs Programme had also used Wage Connect.