

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

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

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

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000780**

**Senator Cameron asked on 06 May 2016 on proof Hansard page 36**

#### **Question**

##### **Employment outcomes from Ireland's internship program**

Senator CAMERON: What was the Irish experience in this program again?

Ms Jensen: The Irish experience was that 61 per cent of participants were in employment five months after completion of the internship program.

Ms Leon: I do not know what the overall youth unemployment rate was in Ireland at that time and how 61 per cent compares to the rest of their programs, so I do not—

Senator CAMERON: Can you provide us with the details of that?

Ms Leon: If we have it, I will. I do not know that I could confidently compare an Irish outcome with an Australian outcome for different programs in different countries at different times.

#### **Answer**

An independent evaluation of JobBridge found that more than five months after completing a JobBridge internship, 61.4 per cent of participants were in employment. This compares favourably to a study by the European Youth Forum on internships across Europe, which found that 34 per cent of respondents turned their internship into a job with either their host or another employer.

The JobBridge Scheme is not restricted to young people. It is available to eligible job seekers over the age of 18. This evaluation looked at the period 29 June 2011 to the end of November 2012. During this period, the unemployment rate in the Republic of Ireland ranged from 14.3 per cent to 15.2 per cent, while the youth (15-24 years) unemployment rate ranged from 28.2 per cent to 31.2 per cent (seasonally adjusted figures).