

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000380

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Question

Restart payments

1. Since it commence on 1 July 2014, how many employers have received the \$3,000 Restart bonus each year since it commenced, compared to the departments expectations that it would support 32,000 job seekers annually?
2. Is this subsidy currently on track this year to meet its target of 32,000?

Answer

1. As at 27 October 2015, employment service providers have been reimbursed for 394 \$3,000 payments to employers, comprising 335 for the first six month instalment and 59 for the second instalment, which is payable after 12 months.

As part of the 2015–16 Budget, Restart programme payment milestones were changed to increase access to the payment. This included a bonus payment of up to \$3,500, payable after 12 months of employment. As at 27 October 2015, no bonus payments have been made. The new payments are only eligible to be paid progressively from 1 November 2015. The bonus is not paid until someone completes 12 months of work under Restart.

2. All wage subsidies, including the Restart programme, are part of a demand driven flexible pool to support a range of job seekers. As the Restart programme is demand driven there is no annual target.