

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2014-15**

Finance Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of Finance

**Outcome/Program:** 1/1.1

**Topic:** Unemployment Benefits

**Senator:** Wong

**Question reference number:** F89

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 10 April 2015

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Page 45 of the 2014-15 MYEFO states that “revisions to unemployment and wage growth have resulted in taxes from individuals being revised down by \$2.3 billion (1.3 per cent) in 2014-15 and \$8.6 billion over the four years to 2017-18. Has there also been a subsequent revision to unemployment benefit recipients, and payments relating to unemployment benefits? If there was, what is the amount, in underlying cash terms, over the forward estimates?”

**Answer:**

There was a revision to the projected number of people unemployed at the 2014-15 MYEFO. Unemployment benefit payment estimates were increased by \$966 million over the forward estimates. Below is an extract from Table 3.14 on page 55 of the 2014-15 MYEFO showing the year by year breakdown of the revision to the unemployment benefit expenditure estimates.

	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>\$m</b>	<b>\$m</b>	<b>\$m</b>	<b>\$m</b>	<b>\$m</b>
Unemployment benefits	280	270	184	232	<b>966</b>

Note – in this instance expenses match underlying cash impact.