

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 20-24 October 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous

Topic: Remote Jobs and Communities Programme – continuity of employment

Senator: Senator Rachel Siewert

Question reference number: 50

Type of question: FPA Friday 24 October 2014, page 34

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 December 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: Yes. You would be aware that I was critical of the process, as well. I will come back to that. This is a group of people that, despite some of the issues around the rushed nature of the changes, actually gained employment for 13 weeks, but they have not carried it through to 26 weeks. Given the urgency of helping people into employment, why haven't you gone back to look at what the factors were that led to people falling out of employment between 13 weeks and 26 weeks?

Mr Bulman: Our service providers engage very regularly with those job seekers. If they do fall out of employment at a point, they come back into the service and engage with their service provider. They understand the details of their barriers, their unique circumstances, and then they aim to put in measures so that, next time they are placed in employment, they can retain that position for longer.

Mr Eccles: We do have information, but it might be something about which we can come back on notice about the range of reasons. But we do work with our providers to try and improve the potential for people to stick, to move from up to 13 and then stick to the 26 weeks.

Senator SIEWERT: It is not just about them sticking to it. It is also about: were those jobs temporary jobs? Were they permanent jobs?

Mr Eccles: Sure—seasonal or otherwise.

Senator SIEWERT: Exactly.

Mr Eccles: We can look at all of that on notice.

Answer:

RJCP providers work closely with job seekers and employers to achieve the best possible outcomes for job seekers. They maintain regular contact with job seekers placed into jobs,

intervening, where appropriate, to provide the necessary support needed to achieve long term employment outcomes. There are financial incentives in place to support providers to do this.

By 30 June 2014, 1,167 job seekers in the RJCP had achieved a 13-week employment outcome. Almost 300 of these job seekers were in temporary or contract-based seasonal jobs lasting less than 6 months.

A further 250 of these job seekers were in longer-term employment but, for a range of reasons, ceased that employment before achieving 26 weeks.

The Review of Indigenous Training and Employment led by Mr Andrew Forrest has made recommendations to address some of the shortfalls of the current RJCP, including better incentives to assist service providers to achieve long term employment outcomes for job seekers. The Government is currently considering these recommendations.