

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates, 1 to 4 June 2004

Question: Bud 37

Topic: Numbers for Mature Age Long-term Unemployment

Hansard Page: E128

Senator Conroy asked:

Was there a dramatic fall in the numbers of mature age people moving out of long-term unemployment straight after this cut?

Answer:

Due to changes in the way the ABS measure long-term unemployment (LTU), comparable data on LTU by age are only available from September 1997. These data show that LTU for persons aged 45 and over has fallen from 76,400 in September 1997 to 40,600 in May 2004.

LTU incidence (long-term unemployment as a proportion of total unemployment) for persons aged 45 and over has fallen considerably over this period, from 48.3 per cent in September 1997 to 35.9 per cent in May 2004.