

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION  
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2003-2004 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING  
19 FEBRUARY 2004**

**EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Outcome 1: An effectively functioning labour market**

**Output Group 1.2: Labour market programme management and delivery**

**Output 1.2.2: Employment Services**

**Question Number: W423-04**

**Question:**

Senator Carr asked in writing:

- (a) Could the Department provide a list of all employment, education and training programs targeted to assist parents returning to work and the forward estimates for each of these programs?
- (b) Could the Department provide an update on each of the programs and explain how it operates in relation to the type of assistance provided to the target group?
- (c) How many participants have gone through each program since its commencement?
- (d) Can the department provide an itemised breakdown of where the funding has gone eg: advertising costs, Centrelink staff, external service providers or organisations etc?
- (e) Will there be funding continuing to these programs beyond 2004-2005? If not please outline the reasons why the programs will no longer be funded?
- (f) What has been the progress of each program, including any employment outcomes (full time, part time and casual employment outcomes) by gender, equity, age and target group?

**Answer:**

- (a) Transition to Work (TTW) has been developed for parents as well as carers and mature age people 50 years and over who are starting work for the first time or are returning to work after an absence of 2 years or more.

Parents receiving eligible income support payments, including Parenting Payment, are fully eligible for Job Network services to assist their return to the paid workforce.

In addition, the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) advises that the Career Planning Programme has additional funds from the *Australians Working Together* allocation to provide services to parents returning to work.

Information is not provided for the forward years in the budget papers.

- (b) TTW offers a range of individual and flexible assistance to help parents, who are looking for paid employment or planning to join or rejoin the workforce after an absence of two or more years. The primary objectives of TTW are to provide preparatory assistance to individuals that builds self-esteem and confidence, and improve individuals' prospects of obtaining paid employment through assessment, skills training, support and advice on how to get into the jobs market.

Providers deliver services such as skills development planning, resumes, reviews and management of training provision. A Skills Development fund is used for training, licences, books and essential equipment that is identified in the job seeker's skills development plan.

Job Network provides a range of job search and intensive support services, under the *Active Participation Model* for eligible job seekers, including parents. This includes access, for eligible parents, to the Job Seeker Account to assist in the purchase of additional individualised services and training, fares, clothing and other assistance in securing and retaining paid work.

DEST advises that the Career Planning Programme provides individual or group career planning sessions to assist people to establish or redefine their employment, education and training goals and develop career management, research and decision making skills.

- (c) There have been 10,909 parents commenced in the TTW programme for period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 and 7,675 parents commenced for the period 1 July 2003 to 5 March 2004.

The number of Job Network clients who are parents returning to the paid workforce is not available.

DEST advises that the data system is not able to disaggregate to this level at present for the Career Planning Programme.

- (d) Providers contracted to supply TTW services have been paid a total of \$6,164,719 in Administration and Management fees for all job seekers for the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 and \$4,982,948 for the period 1 July 2003 to end of March 2004. A further \$4,057,253 has been paid for Skills Development funding for all job seekers for the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 and \$3,696,169 for the period 1 July 2003 to the end of March 2004. Approximately 93% of this TTW programme expenditure can be attributed to parents.

The proportion of Job Network expenditure in respect of job seekers who are parents returning to the workforce is not available.

DEST advises that for the Career Planning Programme, funds have been provided to an external service provider (CRS Australia). CRS Australia is not required to report an itemised breakdown of its costs to DEST.

- (e) Ongoing funding is the subject of normal Budget processes.
- (f) TTW has been very successful in securing employment, education and training outcomes for parents. The tables below provide a breakdown of outcomes by gender, equity group and age:

<b>Outcomes by Gender and Equity 1 July 2002 – 5 March 2004</b>						
<b>Parent Outcomes</b>	<b>Total Outcomes</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>ATSI</b>	<b>CALD</b>	<b>PWD</b>
Full Time job	5576	5169	407	101	449	201
Part Time job	1878	1801	77	31	83	57
Casual job	10	10	0	0	1	1
Study	1771	1704	67	46	133	73

<b>Outcomes by Age 1 July 2002 - 5 March 2004</b>						
<b>Parent Outcomes</b>	<b>15 - 24</b>	<b>25 – 34</b>	<b>35 - 44</b>	<b>45 - 54</b>	<b>55 - 64</b>	<b>65+</b>
Full Time job	373	1467	2380	1146	199	11
Part Time job	107	551	841	333	44	2
Casual job	0	2	5	3	0	0
Study	147	552	715	309	47	1

The breakdown on Job Network outcomes for parents is not available.

DEST advises that the Career Planning Programme provides a short term intervention to assist job seekers to develop career planning and career management skills. Post participation surveys indicate around 90% of participants feel that the programme has been helpful. The employment destinations of programme participants are not pursued.