

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

**2006-2007 ADDITIONAL SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
15 FEBRUARY 2007
EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 3: Increased workforce participation

Output Group 3.1: Working age policy

Output 3.1.2: Research and evaluation

Question Number: W1072-07

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing:

Please summarise the data that is currently being collected for the purposes of the evaluation and how this will be used to assess its effectiveness.

Answer:

- The Department is collecting a wide range of data including administrative data on clients' characteristics, activity and outcomes data, as well as longitudinal survey data on client labour market and participation experience to support the evaluation of Welfare to Work.
- Administrative data on income support receipt and employment assistance services provides the ability to track through time, people's pathways through income support and employment assistance to employment.
- This is supplemented with survey data from the Longitudinal Pathways Survey. This survey tracks a sample of working age people receiving income support and those who have recently exited from income support. It collects information with respect to:
 - what happens when people move off income support;
 - what kinds of employment people find, both while receiving income support and when moving off income support; and
 - barriers to participation among different customer groups.

The survey collects information that can help to explain how and why income support recipients move into and out of employment, as well as on and off income support payments.

- The Department will use a wide range of techniques to assess the effectiveness of the policy changes.

- The evaluation will mainly assess whether Welfare to Work has:
 - increased paid employment
 - increased job related participation (in particular, in services to help gain employment)
 - decreased income support reliance.
- The evaluation will report on the effectiveness of Welfare to Work for all working age income support recipients and in particular, for the four Welfare to Work priority groups - people with disability, parents, mature age job seekers, and the very long-term unemployed.
- The evaluation will also examine the contribution of key components of the package to its overall success including:
 - the performance of the expanded service delivery environment
 - the new requirements and incentives framework under Welfare to Work
 - the employer demand strategy
 - the effectiveness of new initiatives such as Employment Preparation and the new compliance framework.
- A range of quantitative and qualitative methods will be used in the evaluation of Welfare to Work.
- Quantitative evaluation design methods will include:
 - quasi experimental designs where key outcome measures will be compared between the affected target groups and the comparison groups
 - longitudinal analysis where outcomes for the same people will be compared before and after Welfare to Work.

Estimated cost: Using the FOI calculator, to prepare this answer it has taken approximately 4 hours at an estimated cost of \$80.