

**EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**  
**SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**2007-08 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING**

**Outcome 8**

**DEEWR Question Number: EW105\_08**

Senator Boyce asked on 21 February 2008, EEWPR Proof Hansard page 19 & 20.

**Question**

Very Long-Term Unemployment data

Please provide Very Long-Term Unemployment beneficiary point-in-time data over the last three years, and list of the various program rules at the time, and point out the moments in time when change occurred in the program.

**Answer:**

- (a) **Very long-term unemployed beneficiaries (2 years or longer on income support)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>VLTU beneficiaries</b>
<b>2005</b>	March - 242430 June - 232158 September - 228618 December - 230343
<b>2006</b>	March - 229344 June - 222787 September - 223906 December - 225339
<b>2007</b>	March - 222922 June - 213636 September - 208419 December - 211954

- (b) **Programs available to very long term unemployment beneficiaries during the period**

Very long-term unemployed job seekers over this period have been eligible for a range of employment programs. These are listed below:

*Intensive Support customised assistance (ISca)* – since 2003 job seekers receiving Job Network services have been eligible for two periods of ISca (6 months of intensive employment assistance): the first after a minimum of 12 months on benefits and again at 24 months.

- Job seekers assessed as Highly Disadvantaged by the Job Seeker Classification Index when applying for unemployment benefits can be fast-tracked to the first period of ISca and could complete the second period of ISca in 18 months (before being classified as a very long-term unemployment beneficiary).

*Mutual Obligation (MO)* – job seekers in receipt of unemployment payments participating in Job Network services are required to undertake a MO activity for 6 months in every 12. This occurs at 6 months unemployment duration, 18 months, 30 months, etc. Several activities can meet a job seeker's MO requirements, such as part-time study, paid work, Community Work, Work for the Dole, or a combination of these.

*Full Time Work for the Dole* – see (c) below.

*Specialist* programs - the following programs are available to job seekers based on an assessment of their needs and referral by a Job Network member or Job Capacity Assessment provider:

- Personal Support Program (PSP)
- Disability Employment Network (DEN)
- Vocational Rehabilitation services (VRS)
- Job Placement, Employment and Training (JPET)

*Complementary* programs – job seekers may have access to a list of approved programs administered by Federal government departments and state governments.

### **(c) Program changes since 2005**

#### Welfare to Work

From 1 July 2006, job seekers completing a second period of ISca became eligible for the following service options:

- A Job Capacity Assessment (JCA) to identify barriers to employment and appropriate service needs;
  - Wage Assist – a six-month wage subsidy program;
  - Intensive Support servicing through ongoing assistance from the Job Network;
  - Full-time Work for the Dole – participation in Work for the Dole for 25 hours per week for 1,100 hours within 12 months, for job seekers assessed as avoiding their work responsibilities.
- On 17 June 2007, Full-time Work for the Dole became open to job seekers based on their service and employment needs, rather than just for work avoidance.