

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2009-2010**

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW1044_10

Senator Cormann asked on 10/02/2010, Hansard page 125.

Question

JSA SYSTEM

Senator CORMANN—And people like that, even if they only have to go for 15 hours a week, are still part of your 791,000 people in the JSA system?

Dr Morehead—That is right. Once their child is at school, they are expected to be looking for work and they will be receiving job services and assistance with trying to find employment. However, even when they are fully meeting their participation requirements and working their 15 hours a week, they may still be receiving a part rate of payment because that may not be enough to get them off welfare.

Senator CORMANN—I am really understanding and getting the gist here, but how hard would it be to actually provide a high-level breakdown of the characteristics of the 791,000 people in the Job Services Australia system? How many of them are fully unemployed? How many of them are in one or other of a reasonable sort of subcategory in terms of mothers, one hour a week's work, whatever you think is a reasonable sub-categorisation?

Dr Morehead—Yes, we can take that on notice.

Answer

Of the 791 000 partially and fully eligible job seekers on the Job Services Australia caseload as at 31 December 2009, 53 per cent are receiving the full rate of allowance which means that they have not declared sufficient earnings to reduce their level of full income support, 20 per cent are receiving a reduced or nil rate of allowance, predominantly due to the declaration of income, including employment income, and 27 per cent of job seekers are volunteers who are not on income support or are in receipt of pension types, such as Disability Support Pension (DSP), Youth Allowance Other (YAL Other) or Parenting Payment Single (PPS) where fortnightly reporting of income is not required.