

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW0954_11

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

LONG TERM UNEMPLOYED

Is the Department concerned about the increase in the number of Long Term Unemployed identified in the most recent Labour Market and Related Payments report? Does this indicate that the stream 3 and 4 servicing is not working as well as would be liked?

Answer

Labour Market and Related Payments (LMRP) data from 2002, shows a clear downward trend in the number of long-term New Start Allowance (NSA) recipients. A temporary spike in the numbers usually occurs in June/July of each year, and then a larger increase (of between 1.5 per cent and 3.5 per cent) in December/January of each year.

The January 2011 LMRP publication shows that long-term NSA recipients rose from 344 362 in December 2010 to 349 806 in January 2011, an increase of 1.6 per cent. The equivalent increase for the same period 12 months ago (the December 2009 to January 2010 change) was 3.6 per cent.

Seasonally adjusted long-term unemployment has now fallen by 16 400 (or 12.8 per cent) since October 2010, currently standing at 112,200, with short-term unemployment inflows also declining solidly.