

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

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

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No. EW1014_11

Senator Fierravanti-Wells provided in writing.

Question

Experience+ Program: Number of Mature Age Workers in Australia

The government promised during the election that 7500 mature aged workers would have access to the Experience Plus program. How many mature-aged workers are there in Australia?

Answer

The definition of 'mature age' can vary depending on the context.

More Help for Mature Age Workers (announced during the election) is targeted at those aged 50 years and over (consistent with Job Services Australia and Disability Employment Services definitions) who have trade experience but no trade qualification.

Other Experience+ initiatives are targeted at workers aged 50 years and over in occupations/industries in decline, in physically demanding roles, with health conditions, or who mentor/supervise apprentices and trainees. Collectively, the initiatives are designed to help mature age people who want to work to remain in the workforce and to share their skills and experience with others.

As at February 2011, there were around 3 million employed people aged 50 years and over. See table below.

	Employed total (‘000)	Unemployed total (‘000)	Participation Rate (%)
50 – 54 years	1184.8	37.2	82.1
55 – 59 years	944.9	35.0	73.0
60 – 64 years	625.8	18.7	52.1
65 years and over	323.1	3.7	10.6

(Source: ABS *Labour Force Australia, detailed - electronic delivery*, February 2011 (ABS cat. no. 6291.0.55.001), data are original, monthly estimates).