

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

**Outcome 3 - Employment**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0924\_13

**Senator Siewert asked on 13 February 2013 , Hansard page 85**

**Question**

**Wage connect placements**

Ms Drayton: We were talking earlier about the 15,141 wage connect placements. There is eligibility criteria that apply to the wage connect program, and the system flagged eligible job seekers so that the providers are able to see who on their caseload is eligible for it. It then gets down to the issue of when the provider is working with the job seeker and working with employers in the local area around what opportunities there are in that area for that job seeker. So the places are not allocated to a particular area as such. Eligible job seekers are flagged and it depends on the circumstances, the availability and the local labour market at that time. In regard to the pause that we talked about a bit earlier, we have stopped it so that, for people who are currently undergoing placements, we can still pay for their subsidies ongoing and, of course— Senator SIEWERT: Yes, I understand that. It is just new entrants. Ms Drayton: At this point in time. Senator SIEWERT: In terms of the significant number of people who are long-term unemployed, how did you come up with the 15,000 that are placed? Does that make sense? Ms Drayton: The number available in the program? Senator SIEWERT: Yes. Ms Drayton: I may have to defer to a colleague on that issue. Ms Taylor: I can take it on notice. That is probably easier.

**Answer**

The number of placements available under the Wage Connect measure was derived from: standard program design parameters, including available funding envelope, the average cost per subsidy, assumptions about expected take up and retention, and assumptions around the proportion of full time versus part time jobs.