

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM0170_14

Senator Whish-Wilson asked on 27 February 2014, Hansard page 81

Refers to Senate Parliamentary Question in Writing number 92

Question

Wage Connect Program

Senator WHISH-WILSON: You said there were two tranches of the Wage Connect program. The numbers I got back I am guessing were probably for the second tranche. The numbers we received were that 305 of these were located in Tasmania. Ms Taylor: Yes, I think that is right. We can update-- Senator WHISH-WILSON: Overall did you say 1,700 were over the two tranches? Ms Taylor: I was talking businesses for the program as a whole. Ms Drayton: We can certainly update this question on notice with current information for you.

Answer

Wage Connect recommenced to new applicants on 1 July 2013 after pausing effective from 1 February 2013.

Following the recommencement of Wage Connect take-up of the programme continued to be very strong.

In order to ensure it did not exceed its 2013–14 financial year budget of \$25.6m, the programme was paused to new applications from close of business 6 December 2013.

As a result of this pause, Wage Connect performance data (23 978 total Wage Connect placements including the 305 currently in Tasmania) has not varied from 31 December 2013.