

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2
Output Group: 2.3 – Language Literacy and Numeracy

DEST Question No. E160_04

Senator Campbell asked on Thursday 5 June, 2003, EWRE Hansard page 426

Question:

Can you provide more detailed breakdowns of the cities or regions where there is the most need for language and literacy skill support among jobseekers?

Answer:

Demand, available training places and funding for Language, Literacy and Numeracy Programme

A breakdown of the need for language, literacy and numeracy skill support among jobseekers, by city or region, is not available.

The major driver in participation is referral from Centrelink and increasingly from Job Network providers. Jobseekers are referred to LLNP providers by either Centrelink or Job Network. The LLNP provider then assesses their current skill levels and suitability to LLNP training.

Referrals by Centrelink area for the financial year 2002/03 are provided in Table 1. The larger towns and geographical regions in each Centrelink area are also provided for information. The majority of referrals have come from South Metro NSW which encompasses south west Sydney, followed by Brisbane which covers urban and regional areas in southern Queensland. North Central Victoria was the third largest area for referrals in the 2002/03/financial year. This Centrelink area incorporates some Melbourne suburbs as well as the Goulburn Valley. The mix of metropolitan and regional centres in most Centrelink areas makes it difficult to determine which towns or regions within these areas are driving the referral rates and subsequent participation in the programme.

As a result of the referral and assessment process, the number of actual participants is lower than the number of referrals made to the programme. Some jobseekers are referred to the programme but do not attend their assessment meeting. Alternatively, they may not be suitable for training due to other personal barriers, or they may decide not to participate.

Participation by training stream and State or Territory is provided in Table 2. Population figures are also provided for comparison. Percentage participation rates in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, Queensland and the Northern Territory are higher than the percentages of working age population in each respective jurisdiction. The comparison for Tasmania shows that the percentages are very similar. The participation rates in LLNP in South Australia and Western Australia are slightly lower than the percentage of working age population in these States.

The data cannot be analysed to the extent necessary to provide accurate information on the greatest areas of demand other than to provide general indications of the Centrelink areas in which demand is highest and the States and Territories' LLNP training participation rates.

Table 1. Referrals by Centrelink area for financial year 2002/03

Centrelink Area	Number of Referrals 2002/03
Brisbane Brisbane and surrounding area, north to Bundaberg and west to Kingaroy	3084
East Coast NSW Covers coast and coastal suburbs from Ulladulla north to Dee Why. Also includes Sydney suburbs of Marrickville, Leichardt, Rockdale, Sutherland, Ryde, Chatswood, Darlinghurst, Redfern, Haymarket and Hornsby	2176
Hunter (NSW) Covers parts of New England eg Inverell, Armidale, Tamworth and Gunnedah; Hunter, Central Coast, North Coast to Nambucca Heads	1448
North Australia All of Northern Territory plus Kimberley region of WA and Broome, WA	661
North Central Victoria Melbourne suburbs such as Broadmeadows, Coburg, Hawthorn, and Box Hill. Also includes Shepparton and Thornbury.	3033
North Queensland From Biloela north to Thursday Island and west to the NT border	1243
Pacific Central (NSW and Qld) Covers part of West NSW eg Walgett, Moree, North Coast from Coffs Harbour through to Queensland's Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Ipswich and southern parts of Brisbane eg Browns Plains. Also includes lower portion of west Queensland eg Charleville	2355
South Australia Whole of State. Also includes Broken Hill, NSW.	2002
South East Victoria Main centres are Dandenong, Wantirna, Franston, Moe, Bairnsdale, Cheltenham, Morwell	2118
South Metro (NSW) Major suburbs in the area include Camden, Campbelltown, Ingleburn, Liverpool, Cabramatta, Strathfield, Ashfield, Lakemba, Bankstown	3945
South West NSW Covers ACT, south to Albury, west to Griffith and north to Dubbo. Also covers South Coast towns of Batemans Bay and Bega	1223
Tasmania Whole of State	594
West NSW Mudgee south to Lithgow and the Blue Mountains. Also includes suburbs of western Sydney such as Penrith, Windsor, Mt Druitt, Baulkham Hills and Parramatta	2205
West Victoria West Melbourne suburbs eg Sunshine. Also includes Werribee, Corio, Geelong and Colac. Extends to SA border	2594
Western Australia Whole of State except for Kimberley region and Broome	2950
TOTAL	31631

Table 2. Participation in the Language, Literacy and Numeracy Programme by State and Training Stream as percentage of total participants compared with percentage of working age population

State or Territory	Training Stream		Total Number of Participants	Percentage of national total	Percentage of working age population *
	English Language	Literacy and Numeracy			
NSW/ACT	4,688	2,322	7,010	35.8	35.3
Vic	3,578	1,469	5,047	25.7	24.8
Qld	1,226	2,649	3,875	19.8	18.8
SA	655	698	1,353	6.9	7.6
WA	995	635	1,630	8.3	9.9
Tas	92	333	425	2.2	2.3
NT	84	183	267	1.3	1.1
National Total	11,318	8,289	19,607	100.00	100.00

* Source: ABS Australian Demographics Statistics 3101.0 June Quarter 2002