

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION  
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2004-2005 BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING  
31 MAY AND 1 JUNE 2004**

**EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Outcome 1: An effectively functioning labour market**

**Output Group 1.1: Labour market policy and analysis**

**Output 1.1.2: Research, evaluation and reporting**

**Question Number: W054-05**

**Question:**

Senator Barnett asked at *Hansard* pages 58/59:

“Please provide details, if possible state by state, about job prospects for participants post Work for the Dole participation.”

**Answer:**

Information relating to the labour market status of clients 3 months after leaving employment assistance programmes is collected through the Department’s Post Programme Monitoring (PPM) Survey. Outcomes data relating to clients who exited Work for the Dole in the period 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003 are shown below.

It should be noted, however, that the stated objectives of Work for the Dole are to:

- develop work habits in young people;
- involve the local community in quality projects that provide work for young people and help unemployed young people at the end of the projects; and
- provide communities with quality projects that are of value to the community.

As such Work for the Dole is not an employment programme. It is a programme aimed at re-engaging people with their community, thus providing the community with significant benefits. However, an independent study released last year found that, by international standards, Work for the Dole appears to be remarkably successful in helping participants find employment.

## Work for the Dole outcomes by State<sup>1</sup>

<b>State</b>	<b>Positive Outcomes<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>New South Wales</b>	<b>33.6</b>
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>35.3</b>
<b>Queensland</b>	<b>40.1</b>
<b>Western Australia</b>	<b>39.2</b>
<b>South Australia</b>	<b>34.7</b>
<b>Tasmania</b>	<b>33.9</b>
<b>Northern Territory</b>	<b>32.3</b>
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>	<b>41.0</b>
<b>Australia</b>	<b>36.4</b>

1. Post assistance employment outcomes relate to job seekers who ceased Work for the Dole between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2003 and outcomes achieved by 31 March 2004.
2. Positive outcomes include employment and education/training outcomes. Employment outcomes exclude Indigenous job seekers who return to a Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) after leaving labour market assistance. Positive outcomes are less than the sum of employment and education/training outcomes because some job seekers achieve both an employment and an education/training outcome.

Source: The Post Programme Monitoring Survey conducted three months after job seekers cease assistance.