

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

**2006-2007 BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING  
29<sup>TH</sup> AND 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2006  
EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Outcome 1: Efficient and effective labour market assistance**

**Output Group: 1.2 Labour market programme management and delivery**

**Output: 1.2.2 Employment services**

**Question Number: W061-07**

**Question:**

Senator Wong asked in writing:

Can DEWR provide details of how many job seekers have received a wage subsidy, paid from the Job Seeker Account since March 2005? Can DEWR provide this information according to the number of wage subsidies between the following levels of the job seekers wage: a) <25% b) 25%-50% c) 50%-75% d) 75%-100% > 100%.

**Answer:**

From 1 April 2005 to 31 May 2006, there have been 40 236 job seekers who have received a wage subsidy paid from the Job Seeker Account.

Since March 2005, twenty wage subsidies equal to 100 per cent of the wage have been approved by departmental contract managers and reimbursed to Job Network members through the Job Seeker Account.

One wage subsidy in excess of 100 per cent of the wage was approved by the department in October 2005 in respect of a job seeker who had been unemployed for more than ten years. Subsequent to the department's approval, the Job Network member negotiated with the employer an arrangement which reduced the actual subsidy to less than 100% of wage costs. The job seeker commenced work in October 2005 and is still employed.

The department's historical data does not categorise wage subsidies as a proportion of wages and to collect and assess this would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.