

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

**2007-2008 BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
28 AND 29 MAY 2007
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: W230-08

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing:

DEWR has said they did not “categorise wage subsidies as a proportion of wages and to collect and assess this would be an unreasonable diversion of resources”.

- a. Why is that the case? Isn't this already collected and declared?
- b. Has the Department costed the addition of such data tracking?
- c. If not, could the Department cost the collection of data which would show the number of wage subsidies between the following levels of the job seekers' wage: <25%, 25%-50%, 50%-75%, 75%-100%, 100% (already available), +100%.
- d. Can you also please indicate what % of the wage is subsidized by three breakdowns: (i) For total wage subsidy period (ii) in the 1st 13 weeks (employment weeks 1-13) (iii) in the 2nd 13 weeks (employment weeks 14-26). Each one in the variables as outlined in c) above.

Answer:

The quotation in the opening statement to this question was from a response by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations in Question on Notice No W061-07 (2005-2006 Budget Senate Estimates Hearing). The subject information is not readily ascertainable, and to provide the requested answer would require an unreasonable diversion of departmental/portfolio resources.

- a) Details of wage subsidies through the Job Seeker Account as a proportion of wages are not required to be retained where the subsidy is less than 100% of wages and, therefore cannot be reported by the Department.
- b) No.
- c) One-off collection of these data would involve substantial costs for the department and Job Network members alike for the examination of extant related

documentation, including hard copy records held at more than 1100 Job Network member sites around Australia. A precise costing is not available.

d) See (c) above.

Estimated cost: Using the FOI calculator, to prepare this answer it has taken approximately 1.5 hours at an estimated cost of \$35.