

**EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
2008-09 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING**

**Outcome**            8

**DEEWR Question No. EW010\_09**

Senator Watson provided in writing.

**Question**

*Long-term unemployment*

According to the ABS, how many people were Long Term Unemployed (LTUE) in May 1998, and what proportion was this of unemployed persons?

**Answer**

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, long-term unemployment stood at 211 600 in May 1998, while long-term unemployment incidence (long-term unemployment as a proportion of total unemployment) stood at 29.5 per cent.

The number of Centrelink long-term unemployment benefit recipients is also important in any analysis of unemployment duration, even though the duration on benefit is not directly comparable with the ABS' measure of unemployment duration and refers to a significantly different population group.

There were 426 300 long-term unemployment benefit recipients (more than 12 months on income support) in May 1999 (earliest available comparable data for persons on unemployment benefits for five years or more), of whom 75 800 had been in receipt of income support for 5 years or more.