

## EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

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

**Outcome**            7

#### **DEEWR Question No. EW270\_09**

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

#### **Question**

##### *Job Network*

- i) How many job seekers are on the Job Network caseload at this point in time?
- ii) Is there any trend data indicating whether this figure is trending upwards or downwards?
- iii) What is the average duration for a person on the Job Network caseload to gain employment?
- iv) How many job seekers receiving Job Network services have partial work requirements?
- v) What is the actual expenditure to date on the Job Network for this financial year?
- vi) What is the breakdown of this expenditure?
- vii) Under the current contract, what is the current average cost per person who has found employment?
- viii) What is the predicted average cost per person for the new Employment Services Contract 4?

#### **Answer**

- i) As at 31 May 2008, 691,625 job seekers were on the Job Network Active Caseload.
- ii) In the last 12 months, the Job Network Active Caseload has fallen.
- iii) For job placements recorded in the 2007-08 financial year, the average time job seekers were assisted by Job Network prior to placement was 186 days.
- iv) As at 31 May 2008, there were 119,422 job seekers recorded as having a Partial Work Capacity. The Job Network data for all persons with partial work capacity, which includes activity tested job seekers with part-time requirements and also volunteer job seekers with partial capacity who are not subject to activity test requirements.
- v) For the period 1 July 2007 to 31 May 2008, expenditure under the Job Network appropriation was \$1.05b.
- vi) This data is not available. Job Network is a single line appropriation.
- vii) The estimated cost per employment outcome (measured at three months following participation in Job Network Employment Services Job Placement and Intensive Support) is \$3,800 in 2007-2008 (this is as stated in *Portfolio Budget Statements 2008-09 - Budget Related Paper No 1.5*, page 120). Over the life of the current Employment Services Contract, commencing 1 July 2003, the average cost per employment outcome (as defined above) is \$3,680.
- viii) The department has not calculated an average unit cost per person for the new Employment Services Contract 4. Ultimately, the actual cost will depend on the level of disadvantage of job seekers who require assistance, the type and number of placements and outcomes and the level of disadvantage of job seekers for whom they are achieved, Employment Pathway Fund expenditure, and other variables.