

## EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

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

**Outcome**            7

#### **DEEWR Question No. EW278\_09**

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

#### **Question**

##### *Employment Preparation*

- i) How many job seekers have commenced Employment Preparation? What is the breakdown (mature age, parents or carers)?
- ii) Which client group has benefited most from this program?
- iii) What has been the average cost per servicing a job seeker in this program?
- iv) What has been the total cost of delivering this program over the last 6 months?
- v) Will the Employment Preparation program be retained as a component of employment servicing under Employment Services Contract 4?

#### **Answer**

- i) As at 31 May 2008, a total of 45 251 job seekers commenced in Employment Preparation (EP) since the start of the program on 1 July 2006.

The breakdown of participants, who commenced in the EP program, since implementation on 1 July 2006, is:

<b>Parents</b>	24 986
<b>Mature Age (50+)</b>	16 605
<b>Carers</b>	507
<b>Not Available*</b>	4 450
<b>Total</b>	<b>46 548</b>

**Note:** Job seekers who have commenced in EP may have more than one characteristic, for example, a job seeker may be both a Parent and Mature Age (50+). Accordingly, table sums to more than the number of overall commencements.

\* includes job seekers whose eligibility changed post-commencement where original status is no longer recorded.

- ii) Mature Age job seekers (50+ years) have recorded the highest post-participation results.
- iii) The average cost per participant is not available. The costs of EP are included in overall Job Network expenditure and the average cost per participant is not required to be tracked for operational purposes. Therefore, this information is not readily available. Extracting this information would require an unreasonable diversion of the Department's resources.
- iv) The costs of EP are included in overall Job Network expenditure. It is not possible to separate out EP. The requested information is not readily available and it would involve an unreasonable diversion of the Department's resources to ascertain such information.

- v) The new employment services system will replace the current Job Network continuum, of which EP is a part. The new system will provide a more flexible and individualised service based on the participant's assessed level of disadvantage; with eligible job seekers having an individualised Employment Pathway Plan tailored to their specific needs and circumstances. Job seekers will also be eligible to receive assistance from the Employment Pathway Fund (EPF). The EPF can be used to purchase a wide range of assistance for job seekers based on their individual needs and barriers to employment. The new services, including EPP and EPF, encompass the services previously provided under EP but in a more flexible and tailored way.