

## EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

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

**Outcome** 7

#### **DEEWR Question No. EW292\_09**

Senator Abetz asked on 17 June 2008 in writing.

#### **Question**

##### *Personal Support Programme*

- i.) How many people are currently in the personal support programme?
- ii.) How many of these were facing mental illness challenges?
- iii.) How many of these were facing homelessness?
- iv.) How many of these were facing drug or alcohol problems?
- v.) How many of these were facing anger management issues?
- vi.) How many of these were facing gambling problems?
- vii.) How many of these were facing domestic violence?
- viii.) Are there any estimates for projected demand over the next financial year?
- ix.) How many participants were moved from the personal support programme to employment services?
- x.) Can you give the figures to date for the number of capped places and number of participants in this current financial year?
- xi.) How many job seekers are currently on the PSP waitlist?
- xii.) With approximately 27,000 people on the waitlist can you explain why there is a decrease in administered appropriations of \$2,341,000 for the Personal Support Programme, (as outlined in Table 1.2, Portfolio Supplementary Additional Estimates, page 7)?
- xiii.) Can the Department provide a breakdown by their priority level and the average duration wait for each priority group in each ESA (Employment Services Area)?
- xiv.) In the past the Department has collected and analysed data on the profile of people who are currently on the waiting list. Does the Department have, or is the Department able to get, any information as to whether there is a correlation between the priority level and the length of service required by each individual job seeker? If so, can this be made public?
- xv.) What is the current average duration of service for people on the PSP programme?
- xvi.) For those people on the PSP program when the transition to the new contract occurs, will they have a guarantee of being able to spend 2 years on the program, or will they be reassessed?

#### **Answer**

- i) As at 31 March 2008, there were 54,558 participants in the Personal Support Programme.
- ii) 78.7% of participants were facing mental illness barriers.
- iii) 27.1% of participants were facing homelessness barriers.
- iv) 8.3% of participants were facing alcohol dependence barriers.  
9.0% of participants were facing drug dependence barriers.
- v) 15.4% of participants were facing anger management barriers.
- vi) 1.4% of participants were facing gambling barriers.
- vii) 3.1% of participants were facing domestic violence barriers.

*Please note that the figures provided for answers ii-vii are based on barriers to employment identified by Job Capacity Assessors. PSP participants may have more than one barrier to employment and therefore the percentage sum for the figures provided is higher than 100.*

- viii) The Personal Support Programme is expected to assist 80,000 participants in the 2008-09 financial year.
- ix) In the financial year to 31 March 2008, 2,685 participants transitioned from PSP to employment services.
- x) There are currently 55,675 capped places available in PSP. In the financial year to 31 March 2008, there have been 76,063 participants serviced in these places.
- xi) There are approximately 27,000 people on the waitlist for the PSP.
- xii) As part of the Portfolio Supplementary Additional Estimates process in March/April the Department is required to predict the projected expenditure for the financial year and return funds where there is an expected underspend.

At the time of the Portfolio Supplementary Additional Estimates there was a predicted underspend based on financial modelling and monies were returned. The projected underspend included the return of unspent funds previously allocated for the Northern Territory Emergency Response. There was also a lag in the take-up of additional places rolled out in the 2007-08 financial year. In the last part of the financial year this trend in take-up was reversed and PSP used all funding allocated for the financial year other than the previously returned Northern Territory Emergency Response component.

- xiii) See Attachment A for a table showing the average wait time by priority and ESA for people on the waitlist at 30 May 2008.
- xiv) The requested information is not readily ascertainable, and to provide the requested answer would require an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.
- xv) The average duration of service for people who have participated in the PSP is 14.5 months.
- xvi) The Future of Employment Services in Australia discussion paper lists at Appendix 5 the indicative transition strategy for PSP clients. This is:
  1. Participants who have had less than 12 months of PSP servicing at the beginning of the new contract will transition into Stream 4 which has a period of service up to 18 months.
  2. Participants who have had greater than 12 months of PSP servicing at the beginning of the new contract will be reassessed through the JSCI/JCA process and be transitioned into the most appropriate service stream.

## Attachment A: Waitlist by Priority and ESA

### Waitlist by Priority and ESA 30/05/2008

State	Labour Market Region	Employment Service Area	PSP waitlist		Waitlist by priority							
			Number	Average Days	One		Two		Three		Four	
					Number	Average Days	Number	Average Days	Number	Average Days	Number	Average Days
<b>ACT</b>	Australian Capital Territory	Australian Capital Territory	247	163	24	64	69	42	130	196	24	435
<b>NSW</b>	Hunter & North Coast	North Coast Hunter	199	232	6	14	14	27	62	200	117	284
<b>NSW</b>	Hunter & North Coast	Coffs Harbour	214	209	13	74	21	79	90	194	90	274
<b>NSW</b>	Hunter & North Coast	Grafton	124	164	18	74	18	118	43	142	45	239
<b>NSW</b>	Hunter & North Coast	Hastings	50	79	3	2	15	9	30	127	2	16
<b>NSW</b>	Hunter & North Coast	Hunter	156	105	5	50	68	65	68	131	15	186
<b>NSW</b>	Hunter & North Coast	Kempsey	244	185	17	129	104	111	82	258	41	250
<b>NSW</b>	Hunter & North Coast	Lower Hunter	398	179	34	113	45	163	241	167	78	258
<b>NSW</b>	Hunter & North Coast	Richmond	306	236	35	134	48	88	107	314	116	256
<b>NSW</b>	Hunter & North Coast	Taree	156	182	14	100	23	51	78	210	41	231
<b>NSW</b>	Hunter & North Coast	Tweed	141	168	21	149	11	137	67	102	42	291
<b>NSW</b>	Hunter & North Coast	Upper Hunter	21	82	4	100	14	40	2	249	1	252
<b>NSW</b>	Illawarra & SouthEastern NSW	Eurobodalla	123	177	4	76	87	135	20	265	12	370
<b>NSW</b>	Illawarra & SouthEastern NSW	Lower South Coast NSW	52	118	0	0	43	79	8	291	1	414
<b>NSW</b>	Illawarra & SouthEastern NSW	Queanbeyan	55	218	14	229	12	237	24	151	5	465
<b>NSW</b>	Illawarra & SouthEastern NSW	Shoalhaven	218	189	31	144	49	125	115	205	23	305
<b>NSW</b>	Illawarra & SouthEastern NSW	Snowy	2	54	0	0	0	0	1	20	1	87
<b>NSW</b>	Illawarra & SouthEastern NSW	Southern Highlands NSW	38	184	5	96	13	64	11	215	9	370
<b>NSW</b>	Illawarra & SouthEastern NSW	Southern Suburbs NSW	75	162	0	0	4	6	60	140	11	340

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			Number	Average Days	One		Two		Three		Four	
					Number	Average Days	Number	Average Days	Number	Average Days	Number	Average Days
NSW	Illawarra & SouthEastern NSW	Southern Tablelands NSW	49	128	4	81	13	40	26	190	6	81
NSW	Illawarra & SouthEastern NSW	Wollongong	474	269	10	91	33	107	347	270	84	353
NSW	Riverina	Central Murrumbidgee	74	143	7	57	15	112	39	132	13	259
NSW	Riverina	Hume	99	200	5	39	54	151	24	256	16	327
NSW	Riverina	Murray Darling	19	103	3	32	12	112	4	131	0	0
NSW	Riverina	Sturt	87	138	2	53	36	65	26	133	23	265
NSW	Sydney	Northern Beaches Sydney	91	164	8	93	12	54	40	208	31	167
NSW	Sydney	Blue Mountains	23	122	5	42	3	51	6	146	9	175
NSW	Sydney	Canterbury/Bankstown	701	224	8	68	21	94	359	160	313	308
NSW	Sydney	Central Coast Sydney	386	119	16	32	169	45	146	168	55	239
NSW	Sydney	Central West Sydney	894	171	9	21	50	42	563	157	272	228
NSW	Sydney	Fairfield/Liverpool	806	193	13	43	39	69	484	149	270	297
NSW	Sydney	Hawkesbury	65	170	4	29	9	109	39	149	13	319
NSW	Sydney	Inner City/Eastern Suburbs Sydney	560	191	76	78	65	120	301	199	118	284
NSW	Sydney	Inner West Sydney	324	228	17	77	39	76	155	243	113	284
NSW	Sydney	Macarthur	389	213	7	57	26	40	290	217	66	280
NSW	Sydney	Outer West Sydney	815	204	35	80	150	36	499	239	131	299
NSW	Sydney	North Shore Sydney	179	164	17	83	30	79	74	136	58	267
NSW	Sydney	St George/Sutherland	445	208	8	142	127	67	206	252	104	296
NSW	Western NSW	Central Eastern NSW	121	132	7	95	46	81	56	164	12	197
NSW	Western NSW	Central Western NSW	88	236	10	58	19	64	37	359	22	260
NSW	Western NSW	Far West NSW	32	210	2	172	6	26	14	159	10	400
NSW	Western NSW	Gwydir Namoi	83	184	45	137	14	194	10	210	14	306
NSW	Western NSW	Keepit	8	123	0	0	0	0	4	30	4	216
NSW	Western NSW	North East NSW	128	159	24	142	28	127	50	117	26	288

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<b>NSW</b>	Western NSW	Orana	67	181	4	49	5	12	43	156	15	348
<b>NSW</b>	Western NSW	Oxley	17	136	5	96	4	8	6	280	2	58
<b>NSW</b>	Western NSW	Patterson	200	217	22	60	58	123	92	280	28	332
<b>NSW</b>	Western NSW	Parkes	48	299	0	0	9	58	30	332	9	429
<b>NT</b>	Northern Territory	Alice Springs	442	109	124	47	74	48	227	148	17	298
<b>NT</b>	Northern Territory	Darwin	383	197	23	82	34	82	292	198	34	383
<b>NT</b>	Northern Territory	Katherine	161	139	41	54	12	77	98	171	10	250
<b>NT</b>	Northern Territory	Tennant Creek	28	64	13	38	4	79	10	55	1	427
<b>NT</b>	Northern Territory	Top End	246	184	32	124	57	132	145	209	12	288
<b>QLD</b>	Brisbane	Gold Coast	536	172	73	132	75	192	226	88	162	298
<b>QLD</b>	Brisbane	Ipswich	377	224	33	121	132	117	126	272	86	355
<b>QLD</b>	Brisbane	Logan	261	164	49	98	73	169	58	76	81	262
<b>QLD</b>	Brisbane	North Brisbane	348	173	65	106	62	148	153	170	68	269
<b>QLD</b>	Brisbane	Redcliffe Caboolture	371	211	21	68	82	43	223	265	45	312
<b>QLD</b>	Brisbane	South East Brisbane	182	171	24	120	46	113	77	156	35	312
<b>QLD</b>	Brisbane	Sunshine Coast	134	132	28	73	33	110	34	45	39	269
<b>QLD</b>	Brisbane	South West Brisbane	244	169	49	116	60	90	88	181	47	301
<b>QLD</b>	Central & Northern Queensland	Cairns	467	130	53	121	205	90	163	160	46	213
<b>QLD</b>	Central & Northern Queensland	Emerald	21	105	2	18	3	26	13	97	3	273
<b>QLD</b>	Central & Northern Queensland	Gladstone	89	203	0	0	26	123	48	210	15	318
<b>QLD</b>	Central & Northern Queensland	Mackay	104	155	2	18	14	62	74	175	14	160
<b>QLD</b>	Central & Northern Queensland	Mt Isa	55	177	2	12	10	83	32	191	11	250
<b>QLD</b>	Central & Northern Queensland	Rockhampton	180	153	3	111	43	76	115	170	19	233

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QLD	Central & Northern Queensland	Tablelands	78	143	12	89	25	84	37	202	4	122
QLD	Central & Northern Queensland	Townsville	434	194	14	102	164	115	191	238	65	286
QLD	Central & Northern Queensland	Torres Strait	3	17	1	8	2	22	0	0	0	0
QLD	Southern Queensland	Bundaberg	112	101	11	77	8	55	62	93	31	139
QLD	Southern Queensland	Western Downs	39	163	11	102	15	195	5	121	8	211
QLD	Southern Queensland	Fraser Coast	82	139	17	120	14	80	25	62	26	258
QLD	Southern Queensland	Gympie	121	158	13	120	16	131	77	148	15	272
QLD	Southern Queensland	Toowoomba	177	156	23	82	60	41	57	235	37	269
QLD	Southern Queensland	Warwick	75	170	11	115	25	61	21	270	18	237
SA	Adelaide	Southern Adelaide	247	197	9	9	56	42	159	245	23	313
SA	Adelaide	Adelaide Metropolitan	674	216	11	31	193	107	391	261	79	284
SA	Adelaide	North Eastern Adelaide	112	227	1	1	32	74	57	270	22	352
SA	Adelaide	Northern Adelaide	490	218	15	70	132	52	285	291	58	280
SA	Adelaide	North Western Adelaide	429	194	11	69	126	69	249	245	43	293
SA	Adelaide	South West Adelaide	211	132	1	2	100	59	87	178	23	281
SA	South Australia Country	Ceduna	38	122	2	25	23	66	12	248	1	93
SA	South Australia Country	Fleurieu/Kangaroo Island	25	118	1	0	3	13	17	99	4	303
SA	South Australia Country	Gawler	77	185	2	12	33	105	38	260	4	226
SA	South Australia Country	Kadina	35	164	2	6	6	27	18	143	9	332
SA	South Australia Country	Murraylands	45	175	4	32	0	0	33	173	8	258
SA	South Australia Country	Port Augusta	103	133	1	30	36	76	57	160	9	200
SA	South Australia Country	Port Lincoln	24	148	2	15	8	37	10	164	4	398
SA	South Australia Country	Port Pirie	110	194	3	4	13	24	67	232	27	204
SA	South Australia Country	Riverland	147	223	2	106	64	139	74	295	7	270
SA	South Australia Country	Southern Adelaide Hills	16	227	0	0	2	170	10	278	4	131

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SA	South Australia Country	South East SA	69	164	0	0	43	74	19	337	7	247
SA	South Australia Country	Whyalla	55	91	6	46	9	21	30	108	10	128
TAS	Tasmania	Hobart	300	205	32	61	58	39	178	262	32	330
TAS	Tasmania	Launceston	125	192	12	53	36	75	54	245	23	324
TAS	Tasmania	West and North West Tasmania	106	142	16	49	27	37	48	168	15	346
VIC	Eastern Victoria	East Gippsland	51	281	1	17	4	6	26	208	20	443
VIC	Eastern Victoria	Goulburn Valley	191	162	14	168	106	103	55	237	16	281
VIC	Eastern Victoria	Kiewa	42	197	0	0	23	119	16	298	3	256
VIC	Eastern Victoria	Ovens	63	169	0	0	21	32	28	188	14	336
VIC	Eastern Victoria	West and South Gippsland	134	200	1	237	40	42	59	235	34	326
VIC	Melbourne	East Melbourne	384	186	38	168	99	41	191	235	56	286
VIC	Melbourne	Inner East Melbourne	593	205	68	154	258	103	192	306	75	339
VIC	Melbourne	North Melbourne	540	157	45	116	263	79	180	229	52	337
VIC	Melbourne	North West Melbourne	529	187	97	125	174	58	190	279	68	352
VIC	Melbourne	Peninsula Melbourne	235	219	3	7	89	42	87	311	56	367
VIC	Melbourne	South East Melbourne	507	213	25	59	168	69	236	286	78	354
VIC	Melbourne	South Melbourne	376	192	5	25	191	130	132	246	48	314
VIC	Melbourne	South West Melbourne	298	185	28	128	58	49	178	214	34	309
VIC	Melbourne	West Melbourne	262	228	24	126	58	44	138	296	42	317
VIC	Western Victoria	Bendigo	100	174	18	121	9	134	54	168	19	259
VIC	Western Victoria	Eureka	180	234	17	91	36	63	98	283	29	365
VIC	Western Victoria	Geelong	208	221	9	102	43	37	127	267	29	328
VIC	Western Victoria	Grampians	83	227	1	106	39	93	26	340	17	372
VIC	Western Victoria	Hampden	26	214	1	55	2	34	5	103	18	273
VIC	Western Victoria	Mid Murray	29	97	2	63	8	15	16	104	3	299
VIC	Western Victoria	Sunraysia	50	108	4	25	24	86	16	146	6	152

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					One		Two		Three		Four	
			Number	Average Days	Number	Average Days	Number	Average Days	Number	Average Days	Number	Average Days
VIC	Western Victoria	Western District Victoria	29	127	1	27	6	28	10	94	12	211
WA	Greater Western Australia	Esperance	17	166	1	8	9	106	3	181	4	328
WA	Greater Western Australia	Goldfields	80	148	9	55	43	99	22	203	6	430
WA	Greater Western Australia	Midlands/Wheatbelt	160	199	13	122	93	154	26	299	28	288
WA	Greater Western Australia	East Kimberley	99	135	24	46	31	61	35	202	9	364
WA	Greater Western Australia	East Pilbara	22	176	4	45	4	90	6	230	8	243
WA	Greater Western Australia	Karratha	2	100	0	0	0	0	2	100	0	0
WA	Greater Western Australia	Mid West and Gascoyne	120	157	1	0	72	95	36	234	11	325
WA	Greater Western Australia	West Kimberley	106	100	35	42	8	59	25	90	38	168
WA	Perth	Kwinana/Rockingham	153	166	2	43	85	65	50	284	16	347
WA	Perth	Central Perth	353	196	3	96	81	68	226	224	43	296
WA	Perth	East Metro Perth	307	195	1	1	144	104	128	261	34	336
WA	Perth	North Metro Perth	386	189	7	76	137	63	149	261	93	266
WA	Perth	South East Metro Perth	311	156	13	30	156	74	109	240	33	320
WA	Perth	South West Metro Perth	175	201	11	36	69	67	74	313	21	332
WA	Southern Western Australia	Dale	105	143	3	5	44	39	50	216	8	315
WA	Southern Western Australia	Lower Great Southern WA	6	149	0	0	0	0	3	15	3	283
WA	Southern Western Australia	South West WA	145	172	7	49	59	49	62	261	17	321
<b>Total</b>			26736	186	2040	94	6878	84	12845	214	4973	289