

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Outcome/Agency 4

DEEWR Question No. EW0028_10

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance

Estimates for the next 5 years of the number of recipients of working age payments, broken down by payment type and estimates for the long term receipt of each payment (>1year) in each of those years and the average duration of receipt of each payment in each of those years.

Answer

Estimates for working age income support payments are determined on the basis of long range historical trends in payments, recipient behaviour and global economic parameters as provided by Treasury. At the aggregate level, the estimates for working age income support payments are reliable for the purposes of Budget estimates; however, within these estimates, the average payment and recipient numbers are indicative only and can be misleading to take in isolation of the overall position.

Forward estimates of the average duration of recipients on income support and the number of long-term recipients are based on historic trend analysis and are unavailable due to the change in the recipient population in 2008-09.