

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW0184_11

Senator Fifield asked on 31/05/2010, Hansard page 55.

Question

Income Support Recipients aged 50 years and over

Senator FIFIELD—Also, for what you have taken on notice as well, could you also provide that information [number of people receiving benefits] for people who are over the age of 50—obviously not youth unemployment rates. Ms Paul—No, we are onto it. Senator FIFIELD—Unemployment rates in those same years that I asked for in both— Mr Griew—You mean all of those breakdowns, yes? Senator FIFIELD—That is right. Senator BILYK—Could you also provide that information for people who are studying.

Answer

Income Support Payments to unemployed people 50 years and over

The following table shows income support payments to those people aged 50 years and over by financial years.

Payment Type	Jun-06	Jun-07	Jun-08
Newstart Allowance	114,758	112,634	109,852

The figures do not include Parenting Payment recipients with participation requirements.

Source: Centrelink Administrative Data (DEEWR Bluebook Extract – point in time count)

Unemployment rate for persons aged 55 years and over

The following table provides the average unemployment rate (percentage) for persons aged 55 years and over by financial years, as reported by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Unemployment rate (%)	3.10%	2.90%	2.50%

Source: ABS Labour Force, Australia – detailed, electronic delivery(cat no.6291.1.22.001), May 2010 – data are in original terms.

Note: The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force (employed and unemployed persons).

Long Term Unemployment rate for persons aged 55 years and over

The following table provides the Long term Unemployment Incidence (percentage) for persons aged 55 and over by financial years, as reported by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
LTUIncidence (%)	38.70%	32.10%	31.40%

Source: ABS Labour Force, Australia – detailed, electronic delivery(cat no.6291.1.22.001), May 2010 – data are in original terms.

Note:LTUincidence is the number of long-term unemployed persons (those unemployed for 52 weeks or longer) expressed as a percentage of total unemployed persons.

Payments for people who are studying

The following table shows recipients of payments available for full-time students.

Payment Type	Jun-06	Jun-07	Jun-08
Youth Allowance (student & apprentice)	267,576	263,257	255,756
Austudy	27,728	28,269	28,138
ABSTUDY	35,046	34,134	33,730

The figures do not include recipients of non-student payments, such as Newstart Allowance, undertaking short courses on a full-time basis as part of their participation requirements.

Source: Department of Education, Science and Training Annual Report 2006-07
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Annual Report 2007-08