

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW0368_12

Senator Fifield asked on 31/05/2011, Hansard page 67.

Question

Mobility Assistance - Effect of Government Participation Reforms

Senator FIFIELD: What is the department's anticipation of the effect that the government's participation reforms will have on the demand for the mobility allowance, or is that too fine a level of granularity? Ms Parker: At the moment, the definition is about undertaking approved activity, so it may increase, yes. I see what you are saying. Senator FIFIELD: Yes. Ms Parker: I think we would need to take that on notice. It will be a view or an estimate, based on how many people with disability will be coming in and having interviews with Centrelink as a result of the changes, and whether they will need mobility allowance to assist them.

Answer

The introduction of improved support for people with disability to help them into work is anticipated to result in increased numbers of people with disability participating in activities such as job search, employment or training. These activities may be approved for Mobility Allowance and therefore increased participation in these activities may result in increased demand for Mobility Allowance.

The Department has not estimated the number of people who will claim and be granted Mobility Allowance as a result of the participation reforms as qualification may be based on a number of different factors, including inability to use public transport, travel requirements, type of activity, hours spent per week in the activity and duration of participation in the activity.