

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

**Outcome 3 – Employment**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0225\_13**

**Senator Cash asked on 29 May 2012, Hansard page 16**

**Question**

**JSA - Stream Reassessment.**

Senator CASH: So in terms of the 8,085 long-term unemployed in stream 1 of two years or more, can they be upstreamed? Ms Paul: Yes. Ms Parker: They can but they have to go through a test to be upstreamed. It is not a decision of the provider. It is not something the provider can say, 'They've been here for 12 months, I'm going to upstream them. It has to be an assessment on their— Senator CASH: Because these people could still be job ready within stream 1 but just cannot find work. Ms Parker: That is right Ms Paul: Correct. Ms Parker: There are a range of reasons, as Ms Paul explained last time. There are many areas in Australia where jobs are difficult to find. We do not force jobseekers to move to find a job. Assistance is provided but the view is that the effort for providers needs to go into those who are most disadvantaged. Ms Paul: So those 8,000 out of the 700,000 could well already have been tested for this question and found again to be still job ready stream 1. Senator CASH: But just cannot find work. Ms Paul: That is it. Ms Parker: We should point out that being in JSA does not mean you are not working. You can be working. You may be working part-time and on income support and you are in JSA to get other work, to increase your hours or to meet your requirements. So they are not all at home. A lot of people in JSA are working part-time. Senator CASH: Is there any prohibition on the long-term unemployed in stream 1 being tested to be upstreamed? Ms Paul: No. Ms Parker: There is a prohibition in the sense that I mentioned before: we do not allow providers to decide that they should be upstreamed. There are clearly good reasons for that—the highest streams attract greater fees, so there is a moral hazard. If a jobseeker says to the provider, 'I've become homeless,' the provider can put that information into our IT systems which can upstream them through the system. The alternative is the next time they go to Centrelink for their appointment they tell Centrelink that they are homeless, Centrelink re-assesses them and they will be upstreamed, but it needs to be done formally and properly. Ms Paul: In other words, it can certainly be done but it has to go through a test. Senator CASH: Exactly. Ms Paul: And it is quite likely that maybe all or some of the 8,000 have already been through that test. Senator CASH: Is it possible to get a statistic on how many out of the 8,000 have actually been through that test? Ms Paul: Yes, we will take it on notice.

## Answer

Out of the 8085 long term unemployed job seekers being serviced in Stream 1, 4221 have commenced. Many of these job seekers however are currently exempted from service for reasons ranging from lengthy periods of part-time work or full-time study, voluntary or medical exemptions and therefore are not actively engaged with an Employment Service Provider.

As at 31 March 2012, 91 per cent of the 4221 active job seekers have had an assessment within the past 24 months to confirm that they are in the service stream that best suits their requirements, a further 8 per cent of the job seekers have had an assessment within the last 24–48 months, while only 1 per cent of job seekers have had an assessment older than 48 months.

Last date of Assessment*	No. Of job seekers	Percentage
0–3 months	1066	25%
3–6 months	513	12%
6–12 months	811	19%
12–24 months	1482	35%
24–36 months	191	5%
36–48 months	112	3%
older	42	1%
No Assessment	4	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4221</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Assessment = JSCI or ESA/JCA

The remaining 3864 job seekers have yet to commence servicing with their JSA provider due to being on an exemption of some kind, such as medical exemptions.