

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

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

**Outcome 3 – Employment**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0269\_13

**Senator Back asked on 29 May 2012 , Hansard page 61**

**Question**

**Income Support**

Senator BACK: I wonder, have you answered already the question how many in the last 12 months have shifted from the Parenting Payment to Newstart? Is that something you have canvassed already? Ms Taylor: No, we have not. We will have to take that on notice. Over the last 12 months to March or just over the last 12 months? Senator BACK: In taking that on notice, would you also be good enough to provide the advice to us of those who have switched from the Parenting Payment to Newstart in the last 12 months, could you tell us how many have actually achieved an employment outcome as part of that process? Ms Taylor: We will take that on notice, Senator, but just a point of clarification—these would be the parents whose youngest child has turned 16? Senator BACK: Exactly. Ms Taylor: Okay, just making sure. Senator BACK: Yes, that is correct. The other one, again as an adjunct to that, is the number who are now off income support exactly in line with the question you have asked me. Ms Taylor: Yes, certainly. We will get that for you, Senator.

**Answer**

From 1 April 2011 to 30 March 2012 a total of 4246 recipients on Parenting Payment whose youngest child turned 16 moved to Newstart Allowance without any break between payments. A further 647 recipients left Parenting Payment and then returned to Newstart Allowance at a subsequent date.

In the same period, another 3662 recipients left Parenting Payment and did not return to income support.

As there is no compulsory requirement for recipients to report the reason for leaving income support, it is not possible to provide the number of these recipients who left Parenting Payment for employment.

However, recent data from the Job Services Australia program indicates that the paid placement rate for grandfathered Parenting Payment recipients was 57 per cent and for single principal carers on Newstart Allowance was 65 per cent.