

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION  
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2004-2005 BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING  
31 MAY AND 1 JUNE 2004**

**EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Outcome 1: Efficient and effective labour market assistance**

**Output 1.1: Working Age Payments**

**Question Number: W153-05**

**Question:**

Senator Wong asked in writing:

Can trend data be provided showing, from 1996, the number of persons claiming Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) for more than 2 years; and (b) can this data also be broken down by: (i) state, and (ii) DEWR labour market region?

**Answer:**

The trend data requested can be provided by (i) state and (ii) DEWR labour market region for:

- 1999 to 2004 (Newstart Allowance, see Table 1); and
- Youth Allowance (other), see Table 2. Transitional influences continue to impact on the Youth Allowance (other) recipient population following its introduction in July 1998. There has not yet been sufficient time for a consistent time series to be established, particularly for recipients with income support durations of one year or more. Therefore, although the Youth Allowance (other) data for the period 1999 to 2004 is provided in Table 2, it is not comparable across this period.

The following tables provide the number of Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) recipients as at June of each year and set out the number of recipients on income support for two years or more.

Comparable data for the period 1996 to 1998 is not readily available for either payment.

**Notes:**

Refer to W152-05.

**Table 1: Newstart Allowance recipients with Income Support Durations of 2 years+, as at June**

| <b>State/territory</b> | <b>1999</b>   | <b>2000<sup>(a)</sup></b> | <b>2001</b>   | <b>2002</b>   | <b>2003</b>   | <b>2004</b>   |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| NSW                    | 91521         | 82061                     | 75216         | 73320         | 75373         | 73684         |
| VIC                    | 69823         | 64762                     | 59780         | 55966         | 55225         | 55193         |
| QLD                    | 54296         | 49980                     | 49118         | 48255         | 48455         | 45148         |
| WA                     | 17895         | 17968                     | 19602         | 20655         | 21424         | 20188         |
| SA                     | 26767         | 25133                     | 24784         | 23706         | 22418         | 21243         |
| TAS                    | 12079         | 11858                     | 11406         | 10931         | 10945         | 10351         |
| NT                     | 3615          | 3977                      | 5982          | 7571          | 8585          | 9098          |
| ACT                    | 3383          | 2764                      | 2362          | 2217          | 2211          | 2161          |
| <b>Australia</b>       | <b>279379</b> | <b>258503</b>             | <b>248250</b> | <b>242621</b> | <b>244636</b> | <b>237066</b> |

| <b>DEWR Labour market region</b> |                              | <b>1999</b> | <b>2000<sup>(a)</sup></b> | <b>2001</b> | <b>2002</b> | <b>2003</b> | <b>2004</b> |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>NSW</b>                       | Sydney                       | 40213       | 35299                     | 31345       | 30596       | 32239       | 32378       |
|                                  | Hunter and North Coast       | 27485       | 25398                     | 23902       | 23290       | 23456       | 22110       |
|                                  | Illawarra and SE NSW         | 10510       | 9257                      | 8372        | 8027        | 7813        | 7433        |
|                                  | Western NSW                  | 9525        | 8761                      | 8450        | 8338        | 8752        | 8706        |
|                                  | Riverina                     | 3334        | 3106                      | 2954        | 2869        | 2881        | 2860        |
| <b>VIC</b>                       | Melbourne                    | 47174       | 43844                     | 40621       | 38255       | 38078       | 38463       |
|                                  | Eastern Victoria             | 7884        | 7360                      | 6958        | 6507        | 6294        | 6086        |
|                                  | Western Victoria             | 14336       | 13290                     | 11968       | 10992       | 10596       | 10399       |
| <b>QLD</b>                       | Brisbane                     | 32573       | 30007                     | 29055       | 28173       | 27856       | 25131       |
|                                  | Southern Queensland          | 9145        | 8343                      | 8014        | 7738        | 7880        | 7363        |
|                                  | Central and Northern QLD     | 11154       | 10643                     | 11281       | 11748       | 12127       | 12065       |
| <b>WA</b>                        | Perth                        | 12670       | 12764                     | 13555       | 14231       | 14651       | 13760       |
|                                  | South Western Australia      | 2583        | 2533                      | 2677        | 2919        | 3091        | 2810        |
|                                  | Greater Western Australia    | 2457        | 2522                      | 3254        | 3427        | 3609        | 3551        |
| <b>SA</b>                        | Adelaide                     | 18787       | 17593                     | 17443       | 16694       | 15827       | 14776       |
|                                  | South Australia Country      | 7899        | 7553                      | 7405        | 7130        | 6728        | 6604        |
| <b>TAS</b>                       | Tasmania                     | 12001       | 11812                     | 11357       | 10890       | 10896       | 10290       |
| <b>NT</b>                        | Northern Territory           | 3383        | 3690                      | 5553        | 7019        | 7967        | 8466        |
| <b>ACT</b>                       | Australian Capital Territory | 3365        | 2755                      | 2343        | 2205        | 2191        | 2137        |

(a) From 20 March 2000, eligible participants in Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) started receiving CDEP participation supplement (CPS) and other add-ons, such as rent assistance, as part of income support payments. This added a number of new people to those who are normally eligible for unemployment payments, resulting in a gradual take up from 2000. A significant proportion of these new recipients had long term status from 2000. The effect on unemployment payment recipient numbers varies considerably between regions - the Northern Territory and Western Australia being most affected.

**Table 2: Youth Allowance (other) recipients with Income Support Durations of 2 years+, as at June**

| <b>State/territory</b> | <b>1999<sup>(a)</sup></b> | <b>2000<sup>(a)(b)</sup></b> | <b>2001<sup>(a)</sup></b> | <b>2002</b>  | <b>2003</b>  | <b>2004</b>  |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| NSW                    | 1935                      | 4411                         | 8095                      | 8168         | 8303         | 8394         |
| VIC                    | 1102                      | 2709                         | 5973                      | 5984         | 6063         | 6224         |
| QLD                    | 1554                      | 3502                         | 6780                      | 6683         | 6263         | 5769         |
| WA                     | 531                       | 1178                         | 2260                      | 2347         | 2268         | 2137         |
| SA                     | 582                       | 1427                         | 2855                      | 2744         | 2621         | 2558         |
| TAS                    | 355                       | 856                          | 1542                      | 1604         | 1637         | 1530         |
| NT                     | 85                        | 218                          | 566                       | 718          | 756          | 750          |
| ACT                    | 66                        | 146                          | 292                       | 299          | 283          | 281          |
| <b>Australia</b>       | <b>6210</b>               | <b>14447</b>                 | <b>28363</b>              | <b>28547</b> | <b>28194</b> | <b>27643</b> |

| <b>DEWR Labour market region</b> |                              | <b>1999<sup>(a)</sup></b> | <b>2000<sup>(a)(b)</sup></b> | <b>2001<sup>(a)</sup></b> | <b>2002</b> | <b>2003</b> | <b>2004</b> |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>NSW</b>                       | Sydney                       | 728                       | 1342                         | 2724                      | 2941        | 3082        | 3135        |
|                                  | Hunter and North Coast       | 599                       | 1545                         | 2896                      | 2811        | 2811        | 2842        |
|                                  | Illawarra and SE NSW         | 230                       | 616                          | 928                       | 932         | 962         | 943         |
|                                  | Western NSW                  | 235                       | 584                          | 1036                      | 984         | 1008        | 1062        |
|                                  | Riverina                     | 110                       | 278                          | 398                       | 415         | 358         | 349         |
| <b>VIC</b>                       | Melbourne                    | 570                       | 1459                         | 3353                      | 3595        | 3584        | 3792        |
|                                  | Eastern Victoria             | 179                       | 463                          | 943                       | 832         | 877         | 905         |
|                                  | Western Victoria             | 320                       | 739                          | 1589                      | 1483        | 1530        | 1449        |
| <b>QLD</b>                       | Brisbane                     | 910                       | 2039                         | 4160                      | 4173        | 3825        | 3433        |
|                                  | Southern Queensland          | 231                       | 609                          | 1136                      | 1107        | 1078        | 1007        |
|                                  | Central and Northern QLD     | 371                       | 792                          | 1397                      | 1351        | 1304        | 1247        |
| <b>WA</b>                        | Perth                        | 366                       | 800                          | 1519                      | 1643        | 1593        | 1471        |
|                                  | South Western Australia      | 76                        | 197                          | 352                       | 361         | 364         | 356         |
|                                  | Greater Western Australia    | 71                        | 166                          | 352                       | 320         | 295         | 277         |
| <b>SA</b>                        | Adelaide                     | 396                       | 998                          | 2050                      | 1975        | 1882        | 1808        |
|                                  | South Australia Country      | 173                       | 410                          | 782                       | 751         | 723         | 739         |
| <b>TAS</b>                       | Tasmania                     | 347                       | 841                          | 1510                      | 1573        | 1604        | 1497        |
| <b>NT</b>                        | Northern Territory           | 77                        | 201                          | 516                       | 656         | 700         | 682         |
| <b>ACT</b>                       | Australian Capital Territory | 66                        | 144                          | 289                       | 296         | 281         | 276         |

(a) Transitional influences continue to impact on the Youth Allowance (other) recipient population following its introduction in July 1998. There has not yet been sufficient time for a consistent time series to be established, particularly for recipients with income support durations of one year or more. Therefore Youth Allowance (other) data for the period 1999 to 2004 is not comparable.

Youth Allowance amalgamated five payments administered by the Department of Social Security (Youth Training Allowance, More than Minimum Family Payment, Newstart Allowance and Sickness Allowance for 16 to 20 year olds) and the Department of Employment, Education and Training (AUSTUDY for students aged 16 to 24).

Due to the number of recipients transferred to Youth Allowance with a start date of 1 July 1998, a substantial increase in the number of long term recipients is to be expected in Youth Allowance population numbers in the following years. In addition, long term Newstart Allowance recipients aged from 18 to 20 years were maintained on Newstart Allowance. In particular, 1999 and 2000 Youth Allowance (other) recipient data for those with income support durations of two years and more is likely to be substantially understated due to the transitional arrangements.

(b) From 20 March 2000, eligible participants in Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) started receiving CDEP participation supplement (CPS) and other add-ons, such as rent assistance, as part of income support payments. This added a number of new people to those who are normally eligible for unemployment payments, resulting in a gradual take up from 2000. A significant proportion of these new recipients had long term status from 2000. The effect on unemployment payment recipient numbers varies considerably between regions - the Northern Territory and Western Australia being most affected.