

**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: W154-05

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 5 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 five 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 5 years+, as at June

State/territory	1999	2000^(a)	2001	2002	2003	2004
NSW	26107	27158	30397	34537	36866	39378
VIC	20372	21806	23449	25593	26320	29401
QLD	12242	14428	17442	20043	21369	23220
WA	4040	4584	5512	6958	8115	9187
SA	7652	8467	10036	11267	11457	12393
TAS	3437	4003	4914	5926	6283	6564
NT	1172	1451	1766	2321	2843	4169
ACT	767	844	864	981	1024	1142
Australia	75789	82741	94380	107626	114277	125454

DEWR Labour market region		1999	2000^(a)	2001	2002	2003	2004
NSW	Sydney	11558	11423	11860	13262	14302	15596
	Hunter and North Coast	8324	9104	10418	11895	12494	13041
	Illawarra and SE NSW	2898	2995	3453	3936	4029	4134
	Western NSW	2421	2634	3416	3997	4444	4876
	Riverina	769	917	1177	1355	1481	1626
VIC	Melbourne	14293	14940	15336	16652	17263	19728
	Eastern Victoria	1986	2303	2881	3236	3312	3476
	Western Victoria	3953	4462	5145	5612	5623	6070
QLD	Brisbane	6712	8215	10115	11524	12074	12872
	Southern Queensland	2440	2785	3247	3682	3896	4148
	Central and Northern QLD	2526	2988	3728	4525	5082	5856
WA	Perth	2845	3226	3847	4892	5614	6373
	South Western Australia	578	660	852	1077	1278	1332
	Greater Western Australia	580	672	794	981	1206	1444
SA	Adelaide	5288	5890	6904	7790	7927	8571
	South Australia Country	2355	2597	3158	3508	3572	3886
TAS	Tasmania	3414	3985	4888	5908	6264	6531
NT	Northern Territory	1088	1326	1608	2122	2614	3849
ACT	Australian Capital Territory	763	843	856	976	1017	1125

(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 5 years+, as at June							
State/territory		1999^(a)	2000^{(a)(b)}	2001^(a)	2002^(a)	2003^(a)	2004^(a)
NSW		<20	23	49	39	37	75
VIC		<20	<20	27	23	21	35
QLD		<20	<20	45	34	36	55
WA		<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	20
SA		<20	<20	<20	<20	24	<20
TAS		<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
NT		<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
ACT		<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Australia		27	78	170	137	136	231
DEWR Labour market region		1999^(a)	2000^{(a)(b)}	2001^(a)	2002^(a)	2003^(a)	2004^(a)
Note with the exception of the following small number of regions, the majority of the DEWR labour market regions had fewer than 20 recipients in each year so they are not included in the table.							
NSW	Sydney	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	30
	Hunter and North Coast	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	21
QLD	Brisbane	<20	<20	21	<20	22	33
<p>(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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p>							
<p>(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.</p>							