

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

**2005-2006 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
2 and 3 NOVEMBER 2005**

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 1: Efficient and effective labour market assistance

Output Group1.1: Working age payments

Output 1.1.1: Working age payments and compliance

Question Number: W413-06

Question:

Senator Wong asked at *Hansard* page 127 (Wednesday, 2 November 2005) and page 18 (Thursday, 3 November 2005) to be provided with an update of trend data showing the number of persons claiming Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) for 1 year or more, 2 years or more and 5 years or more, disaggregated by (i) State/Territory and (ii) DEWR Labour Market Region.

Answer:

The trend data requested can be provided as at June 2005 by:

- i. State/Territory (see Table 1); and
- ii. DEWR Labour Market Region (see Table 2).

Notes:

It is important not to equate the DEWR income support population data with the number of unemployed persons, as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in line with International Labour Organisation guidelines. The two series cannot be directly compared, as there are a number of significant definitional differences.

The standard definition of payment duration used in published reports by DEWR, and previously FaCS, since 1998 in relation to recipients on Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) is their income support payment duration, which is different from the duration of unemployment as used by the ABS. In many cases the duration of unemployment under the ABS definition will be much shorter than the duration of income support receipt.

The income support duration definition for Youth Allowance includes periods on Youth Allowance as a full-time student, as well as periods unemployed (Youth Allowance (other)). As a consequence, Youth Allowance (other) recipients reported with income support duration of more than 12 months may also include periods when the recipient was a full-time student.

For various reasons the total number of recipients identified by state/territory grouping is not directly comparable to the total number in the DEWR Labour Market Region groupings, differing by on average around one per cent. Data grouped by DEWR Labour Market Region is based on assigning postcode data to DEWR Labour Market Regions (concordance). It excludes recipients with invalid postcodes and there is a small residual error due to rounding.

Due to confidentiality provisions, cells with fewer than 20 recipients have been replaced with '<20'. This includes cells that have a value of zero. If the total column makes it possible to work out the value of any '<20' cells, the total field has also been left blank.

Table 1: Income Support Duration for NSA and YA(o) recipients by State, as at June 2005						
State/Territory	1 year +		2 years +		5 years +	
	NSA	YA(o)	NSA	YA(o)	NSA	YA(o)
NSW	92,949	12,960	70,236	7,994	38,120	67
VIC	70,311	8,779	52,491	5,849	27,950	40
QLD	53,680	8,249	40,203	4,842	21,727	48
WA	24,126	3,310	17,698	1,723	8,832	<20
SA	25,402	3,864	19,736	2,459	11,775	23
TAS	11,730	1,847	9,559	1,269	6,239	<20
NT	10,696	1,315	9,027	701	5,262	<20
ACT	2,735	387	2,067	227	1,103	<20
Australia	291,629	40,711	221,017	25,064	121,008	211

Source: SuperSTAR 17 June 2005, current customers.

Table 2: Income Support Duration for NSA and YA(o) recipients by Labour Market Region, as at June 2005							
DEWR Labour Market Region		1 year +		2 years +		5 years +	
		NSA	YA(o)	NSA	YA(o)	NSA	YA(o)
NSW	Sydney	43,456	4,931	31,625	3,000	15,399	25
	Hunter and North Coast	25,679	4,090	20,213	2,642	12,317	23
	Illawarra and SE NSW	9,287	1,510	7,078	890	3,947	<20
	Western NSW	10,472	1,824	8,272	1,078	4,767	<20
	Riverina	3,596	520	2,711	332	1,518	<20
VIC	Melbourne	49,329	5,279	36,367	3,542	18,767	23
	Eastern VIC	7,645	1,275	5,763	845	3,219	<20
	Western VIC	13,095	2,189	10,175	1,442	5,862	<20
QLD	Brisbane	30,043	4,738	22,088	2,826	11,657	23
	Southern QLD	8,579	1,470	6,628	899	3,906	<20
	Central and Northern QLD	14,072	1,934	10,669	1,061	5,678	<20
WA	Perth	15,865	2,136	11,735	1,160	5,898	<20
	South WA	3,303	557	2,400	306	1,272	<20
	Greater WA	4,901	603	3,538	252	1,657	<20
SA	Adelaide	17,327	2,701	13,468	1,727	7,985	<20
	SA Country	8,241	1,177	6,420	743	3,890	<20
TAS	Tasmania	11,667	1,820	9,506	1,248	6,203	<20
NT	Northern Territory	9,944	1,208	8,391	640	4,871	<20
ACT	Australian Capital Territory	2,684	383	2,031	224	1,082	<20

Source: SuperSTAR 17 June 2005, current customers.