

**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 3: Increased workforce participation

Output Group 3.1: Working age policy

Output 3.1.1: Working age policy legislation

Question Number: W507-06

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing - Has there been a Job Network pilot for parents along the lines of the Disability Support Pension Pilot? If so, could you provide the following, broken down by marital status (single or partnered), State, age of parent, age of youngest child (under 6, 6-15), educational attainment, and employment status on commencement:

- How were participants recruited for the pilot?
- How many participants were approached to participate?
- How many participants from the original sample were considered inappropriate to take part in the pilot?
- How many participants were invited to commence in the pilot?
- How many participants commenced in the pilot?
- How many participants were assessed as Highly Disadvantaged?
- A breakdown of the forms of assistance were provided (e.g. Intensive Support Customised Assistance?)
- A breakdown of the durations of assistance received.

Please provide a breakdown, according to the above characteristics, of employment outcomes (full and part-time) and education and training outcomes achieved by participants in:

- Job Search Support only
- Intensive Support
- Intensive Support Customised Assistance

Please specify the timing of these outcomes.

Answer:

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR), Department of Family and Community Services and Centrelink undertook a Parenting Payment Pilot in 2004. Responsibility for the Pilot now rests with DEWR and Centrelink following machinery of government changes.

The Parenting Payment pilot differed significantly in its parameters to the Disability Support Pension Pilot. The Disability Support Pension pilot explored strategies to engage Disability Support Pension recipients with available Job Network employment services to help them find work.

The Parenting Payment pilot in contrast collected data on the rate of referral to and commencement in Job Network among Parenting Payment customers in the context of Australians Working Together and Job Network participation being a voluntary activity. The pilot comprised ten pilot sites to:

- promote the services of Job Network at the Personal Adviser/JET Adviser (PA/JA) interviews which may lead to more referrals; and
- identify better servicing arrangements for parents in Job Network.

The pilot was conducted over 12 weeks, commencing on 17 May 2004 and finishing on 6 August 2004.

Table 1 provides a breakdown of the characteristics of pilot Parenting Payment recipients interviewed by a PA/JA by age of youngest child, average age and state. Data on educational attainment is not available.

Table 1: Characteristics of pilot Parenting Payment recipients interviewed by a PA/JA

	PPP %	PPS %	Total %
Age of youngest child			
0 TO 5 YEARS	8.17	8.82	8.70
6 TO 12 YEARS	58.17	60.23	59.86
13 + YEARS	33.66	30.95	31.44
Average age (years)	38.97	41.25	39.38
State			
NSW	16.01	14.01	15.65
VIC	54.67	53.11	54.39
QLD	29.32	32.88	29.96
Total	18.04	81.96	100.00

The Parenting Payment recipients included in the pilot were not recruited or approached to participate. Nor was there an original sample of Parenting Payment recipients for the pilot or an invitation to commence. Rather, the administrative data collected on Parenting Payment recipients was from the natural flow of parents who had a PA/JA interview scheduled during the pilot.

Table 2 details all individuals who had a PA/JA interview at a pilot site during the pilot period and are identified as having 'commenced in the pilot' by being on either Parenting Payment Single (PPS) or Parenting Payment Partnered (PPP) and by what their participation requirements were at the time of the interview. Less than 20 per

cent of the interviews were with PPP recipients and less than 10 per cent were with parents whose youngest child was less than six.

Table 2: Pilot Parenting Payment recipients interviewed by a Personal Adviser/JET Adviser

Age of youngest child (years)	Participation requirements	Number of Parenting Payment Partnered	Number of Parenting Payment Single	Total
0 TO 5	None	42	206	248
6 TO 12	Annual interview	299	1407	1706
13 +	Participation	173	723	896
Total*		514	2,336	2,850

* Population contains all individuals who had a PA/JA interview at a pilot site during the pilot period and are identifiable as having been on either PPS or PPP at the time of the interview.

Of the 2,657 who were available for referral 442, or 15.5 per cent of those interviewed (16.6 per cent of those available) were referred to Job Network within a month of the PA interview and a further 586 (22.1 per cent) were referred more than a month after the PA interview.

64.9 per cent (287) of those referred to Job Network commenced participation in an assistance programme within a month of the interview. In addition, 9 individuals who had been referred to a Job Network member more than 3 months before the interview but had not participated in any assistance in that time commenced participation in a JN assistance programme. That is 296 (10.4 per cent of those interviewed or 11.1 per cent of those available) commenced participation in a JN programme within a month of the interview.

Table 3 provides a breakdown of the various forms of assistance provided by the JNM to those participants.

Table 3: Job Network assistance commenced within a month of interview

Job Network Program	First programme commenced*		Since interview**	
	#	%	#	%
JSS	196	66.2	208	70.2
ISJST	1	0.3	59	19.9
IS	1	0.3	150	50.7
ISCA	98	33.1	150	50.7
Total	296	100		

* First Assistance commenced within a month of interview is reported. 3 individuals commenced in 2 programmes within a month.

** 170 participated in more than one JN program

Table 4 shows the distribution of duration in Job Network assistance programmes over the 12 months following the pilot PA interview for the 296 participants who commenced in the Job Network within a month of the PA interview.

Table 4: Duration of JN assistance*

Duration in Assistance				
	To 3 months %	3 to 6 months %	6 to 9 months %	9 to 12 months %
Payment type				
PPP	22.6	18.9	20.8	37.7
PPS	21.4	20.6	14.8	43.2

* In the 12 months following the PA interview conducted between 17 May and 6 August 2004.

The pilot's focus was on the number of referrals made to Job Network and the qualitative data on servicing arrangements between Centrelink and Job Network members rather than quantitative data measuring the individual employment outcomes for parents. Data on employment status and educational attainment at commencement, employment outcomes and assessed highly disadvantaged status is not available.