

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 4 - Employment

DEEWR Question No. EW0641_12

Senator Nash provided in writing.

Refers to previous DEEWR Question No [EW0188_12](#).

Question

Disability Employment Service Pilots

"Following on from Question on Notice reply from budget estimates regarding Disability Employment Services pilots – http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/eet_ctte/estimates/bud_1112/answers/EW0188_12.pdf DEEWR responded that in the budget the Government will provide \$2.7 million to support the extension of current Disability Employment Services (DES) pilots until 3 March 2013 to support young people with disability make the transition from school support to employment services and assist people with moderate intellectual disability secure sustainable employment. • How many students are involved in these pilots? • How many come from regional areas? • What is the success rate so far? DEEWR also states school leavers will benefit from the availability of wage subsidies, which are particularly effective in encouraging employers to offer employment opportunities to participants who do not have relevant employment experience. To complement the \$1500 wage subsidy currently available to DES participants, the budget provided 1000 enhanced wage subsidies per year of up to \$3000 for employment of at least six months, for DES participants who have not been employed for the previous 12 months. • What has been the take-up rate has been so far, and how many in regional areas? "

Answer

1. How many students are involved in these pilots?

As at 31 August 2011, there were 8496 participants in the Eligible School Leaver trial and 644 participants in the Moderate Intellectual Disability trial. There were 131 participants in the Moderate Intellectual Disability trial who were also recorded as being an Eligible School Leaver.

2. How many came from regional areas?

The following table provides the number of participants in the Eligible School Leaver (ESL) and Moderate Intellectual Disability (MID) trials, as well as the number of participants who are in the Moderate Intellectual Disability trial who are also Eligible School Leavers (as at 31 August 2011). The information is detailed for regional, remote and metropolitan areas.

Site Locality	ESL	MID	MID and ESL
Regional	3762	161	28
Remote	258	27	6
Metro	4476	456	97
Total	8496	644	131

* Remote includes excised areas in remote ESAs

3. What is the success rate so far?

The following tables provide the number of job placements and 13 week outcomes for participants in the Eligible School Leaver and Moderate Intellectual Disability trials as well as information for participants in the Moderate Intellectual trial who are also Eligible School Leavers as at 31 August 2011. The information is detailed for regional, remote and metropolitan areas.

Site Locality	ESL Job Placements	ESL 13 Week Outcomes
Regional	2,352	1,318
Remote	119	135
Metro	2,287	1,200
Total	4,758	2,653

* Remote includes excised areas in remote ESAs

Site Locality	MID Job Placements	MID 13 Week Outcomes
Regional	67	33
Remote	6	4
Metro	107	87
Total	180	124

* Remote includes excised areas in remote ESAs

Site Locality	MID and ESL Placements	MID and ESL 13 Week Outcomes
Regional	8	2
Remote	2	2
Metro	24	14
Total	34	18

* Remote includes excised areas in remote ESAs

Note: This table represents participants who are part of both the moderate intellectual disability and eligible school leaver trials.

4. What has been the take up rate for wage subsidies and how many in regional areas?

The Wage Subsidy Scheme provides a wage subsidy of up to \$1500 plus GST as a financial incentive for employers to offer at least thirteen weeks of employment at 8 or more hours per week. It is available for all DES participants, to provide an opportunity for the participant to demonstrate their suitability for ongoing employment.

In the eighteen months from the commencement of DES to 31 August 2011, Wage Subsidy Scheme subsidies were paid for 1265 Eligible School Leavers, representing 11.1 per cent of 11,390 claimed subsidies. Eligible School Leavers comprised a greater proportion of Wage Subsidy Scheme claims in non-metropolitan areas, with 727 participants representing 13.2 per cent of regional wage subsidy recipients, and 71 participants representing 35.0 per cent of remote wage subsidy recipients.

Eligible School Leavers may also benefit from two new wage subsidies which commence in 2012, where they meet eligibility requirements. These subsidies will include:

- the Wage Connect Subsidy of approximately \$5,700 plus GST, available from 1 January 2012 for DES and JSA participants who have been on income support for at least two years and who have had no or minimal employment in that time; and
- a further wage subsidy of up to \$3000 plus GST, available from 1 July 2012 for DES participants who have been unemployed for at least 12 months.