

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

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

**Outcome 4 - Employment**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0698\_12**

**Senator Siewert provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Very long term unemployed people**

"The projected numbers of individuals in the Work Experience phase expected to commence the proposed 11 months of compulsory activity, in each year from 2012-13 to 2014-15. The proportion of these individuals expected to complete the full 11 months in each of those years. The average expected unit cost of the activity, per month of completed activity"

**Answer**

- 1. The projected numbers of individuals in the Work Experience phase expected to commence the proposed 11 months of compulsory activity, in each year from 2012-13 to 2014-15.**

Reliable projected figures for this cohort are not available. Job Services Australia is a demand-driven program, with highly variable factors. This includes job seeker movement in and out of employment services and between streams; and market conditions such as moving into education or employment affecting the numbers of job seekers moving through the Work Experience Phase who subsequently may commence in 11 months of compulsory activity.

However, by way of example, if this measure had been in effect on 31 August 2011, there would have been 32,703 job seekers in their second or later year of the Work Experience Phase. It is estimated that approximately 75 per cent of those job seekers would have a Work Experience Activity Requirement, requiring participation for 11 months in one or more work experience activities.

- 2. The proportion of these individuals expected to complete the full 11 months in each of those years.**

Reliable projections for completions are not available due to similar highly variable factors as noted above.

- 3. The average expected unit cost of the activity, per month of completed activity.**

A calculation of a unit cost for each activity is not a reliable or useful measure as too many factors may distort results. Factors influencing results include, for example:

- significant variations in types of activities, the length and cost of different activities and whether the activities are metropolitan or regionally-based;
- evolving expenditure patterns as the employment services market matures and develops; and
- fluctuations in job seeker numbers being placed on Work Experience Activities and moved into the Work Experience Phase.