

# Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee

## BUDGET ESTIMATES – 27 May 2010 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

### Human Services Portfolio

**Topic:** Newstart Allowance

**Question reference number:** HS24

**Senator:** SIEWERT

**Type of question:** Hansard F&PA page 115-116

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 9 July 2010

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

**Senator SIEWERT** - What is the average time now that a newly unemployed person remains on Newstart? How soon is it until the newly unemployed are getting a job?

**Mr Pratt** - That is a question you should ask of DEEWR.

**Senator SIEWERT** - So you do not have any figures about how quickly people are coming in and going off Centrelink -

**Mr Pratt** - Not to hand, but I am sure we have plenty of data on how long people receive income support for and that sort of stuff. We would have to take that on notice. The question you asked is something which DEEWR focuses on.

**Senator SIEWERT** - I will talk to DEEWR about it next week. Thank you.

#### **Answer:**

Of the customers who commenced payment of Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (as a job seeker) in the three month period between May to July 2009:

- 26 per cent left income support within three months;
- 39 per cent left income support before six months had elapsed; and
- 44 per cent left income support before nine months had elapsed.

Source: Centrelink Administrative data (DEEWR Extract – Research and Evaluation Dataset)

Centrelink is not able to indicate if customers left income support solely because they obtained employment.