

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Employment
Witness:	Hon Jaala Pulford
Committee Member:	Mr Danny O'Brien
Page/s of transcript:	2-3

Relevant text:

Mr D O'BRIEN: Thank you, Chair, and welcome, Minister. I cannot begin without also acknowledging the inverse, as you said, of the employment portfolio in that finding staff is just an issue at the moment; it is not creating jobs, but I will let my colleagues perhaps ask a few questions on that. Can I just begin with a question about Working for Victoria? Are you able to advise what percentage of Victorians employed under Working for Victoria still have a job today?

Ms PULFORD: I do not have that information immediately to hand. I can provide you with no shortage of stories of people that I have met, of employers that have gone on to create ongoing positions, of people that have left their Jobs Victoria funded role to go into a substantive position with their host employer or with another, but those positions were not designed to be ongoing. There were designed, and I think we talked about this last time, to be of a limited period given the nature of their full wage subsidy. Typically they were six months; there were some that were shorter—not many—and there were some that were longer, but overwhelmingly they were six-month transition roles for people. Those things will be reconciled by the end of this financial year.

Mr D O'BRIEN: Okay. If you could provide whatever information you have on hand at the moment on notice, that would be good.

Answer:

The Working for Victoria initiative was a time-limited stimulus program to support people into 6-month jobs during the emergency response phase of the pandemic.

Due to the nature of the roles, the program did not monitor participants beyond their Working for Victoria employment.

The \$500 million program placed 14,305 Victorians into time-limited jobs, the majority of which have now been completed. There are 55 remaining Working for Victoria grants with financial commitments that will be completed by 30 June 2022, which will then finalise the program.

People previously employed through the Working for Victoria program are an eligible cohort for wage subsidies as part of the Jobs Victoria Fund.

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Witness:	Hon Jaala Pulford
Committee Member:	Mr Sam Hibbins
Page/s of transcript:	10 -11

Relevant text:

Mr HIBBINS: Thanks, Chair. Thanks, Minister and your team, for appearing today. My questions really do relate to the breakdown in terms of the subsidy-attracting jobs. Are you able to provide—whether you have already covered it or not—the industry that the subsidies have gone to but then also the groups of people that attracted the subsidy? You can take it on notice—or if you have got the information there.

Ms PULFORD: I might invite Lisa to speak to it. It is very similar to what we have just been talking about, and we are also happy to provide it to the committee on notice. But I might ask Lisa to respond briefly.

Ms BUCKINGHAM: The top industry that is attracting the wage subsidies is professional services, and then it pretty much tracks to how we understand workforce shortages to exist, so accommodation and retail, transport, health care and social assistance, tourism, rec services, and then it pretty much trails off quite quickly after that. We are hitting about 63 per cent female, and then the other priority cohorts that Minister Pulford outlined before—we are heading towards an equal share in the population, so people with disability and young people, we are tracking really well. People who have a multicultural background and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people—we are hitting those targets, but they are not public targets that we set in terms of the BP3 targets. That is being hit and met.

Mr HIBBINS: Yes, okay. And you can provide those breakdowns.

Answer:

The Jobs Victoria Fund is delivering 10,000 secure jobs for Victorians. The Fund provides wage subsidies for people who face barriers to employment. At least 60 per cent of jobs supported by the Jobs Victoria Fund will be for women, reflecting the significant impact the pandemic has had on their employment opportunities.

As of 26 April 2022, of the jobs subsidised by the Fund, 63% have been filled by women, with 29% of these filled by women who are over 45.

The tables below outline the breakdowns of subsidised jobs by industry and cohort.

Table 1: Subsidised jobs by industry (at contracted stage)

Industry	Percentage of participants
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	16%
Accommodation and Food Services	12%
Retail Trade	11%

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Health Care and Social Assistance	9%
Other Services	8%
Construction	7%
Manufacturing	7%
Wholesale Trade	6%
Administrative and Support Services	5%
Financial and Insurance Services	4%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	4%
Education and Training	3%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	2%
Arts and Recreation Services	1%
Public Administration and Safety	1%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	1%
Information Media and Telecommunications	1%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	<1%
Other	<1%

Table 2: Subsidised jobs by priority cohort (at contracted stage)

Cohort	Percentage of participants
Woman	63%
People over 45	40%
Long term unemployed	35%
Young people (< 25)	33%
Woman over 45	29%
Jobseekers registered with a Jobs Victoria Mentor service / JV Partner	9%
Newly arrived migrants from non-English speaking backgrounds	8%
Previously employed under Working for Victoria	3%
People with disability	3%
Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people	2%
People seeking asylum and refugees	1%
Veterans	<1%

* Note - participants may fall into multiple cohort categories, percentages do not add to 100%