

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 724

asked on 27 May 2021

MR B MICKELBERG ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (HON D FARMER) —

QUESTION:

With reference to the Back to Work program, for employees hired prior to 31 May 2020—

Will the Minister advise the separate number of initial payments, second payments and final payments made to employers (reported separately for the employer support payment and youth boost payment)?

ANSWER:

I am pleased to be able to advise that since 2016 the Back to Work (BTW) program has been supporting businesses to employ Queenslanders who have experienced a period of unemployment.

The following table provides a breakdown by Employer Support Payment and Youth Boost Payment to employers who supported jobseekers into employment prior to 31 May 2020:

Payment type	Employer Support Payment	Youth Boost
First payment	7,390	15,464
26 week payment	1,032*	10,813
52 week payment	3,017*	7,171

* prior to 1 July 2019 the Employer Support Payment had only the two payment types, the first payment and the 52 week payment. This is why there is a greater number of payments in the 52 week payment, as opposed to the 26 week payment.

The BTW program supports employee retention through on the ground, local assistance via the BTW Employer Officers and BTW Jobseeker Officers network. Feedback through this network indicates that employees supported through the BTW program often secure alternative employment and/or progress to further education and study, demonstrating the significant value and confidence gained by job seekers participating in the BTW program. Approximately 80% of employers engaged through this program are small businesses.

The revitalised BTW Program launching from 1 July 2021 has a renewed focus on additional ways to support employee retention in the program. Employers and job seekers will have more support available that will continue to drive sustainable employment outcomes and better equip employers to retain employees in the workplace.