

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

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|-----------------------|-------------|
| Portfolio:            | Employment  |
| Witness:              | Ms Pulford  |
| Committee Member:     | Ms Vallence |
| Page/s of transcript: | Pages 9-10  |

### Relevant text:

**Ms VALLENCE:** Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Minister and team, for appearing. Look, we will pick up again on the wage subsidies questions. In terms of the 'Gender Equality Budget Statement' at page 4 and referring to the \$250 million in wage subsidies supporting businesses—so this is a \$250 million package—and just what I was hearing from you in answering Mr O'Brien, is the subsidy a fixed per-person subsidy over the six months?

**Ms PULFORD:** No.

**Ms VALLENCE:** And if not, what is the range—what is the highest wage subsidy and the lowest wage subsidy?

**Ms PULFORD:** That will be determined by negotiations with host employers that will take into account a range of factors: additional costs, training needs and other supports that people will need—things like the appropriate rate for the industry, those kinds of things. As you would appreciate, there is an enormous variance in different industries. Thursday, 3 December 2020 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee 10

**Ms VALLENCE:** So the \$250 million, and you are estimating that to be around 10 000 Victorians—if you are going into negotiations, I would imagine that they might take some time—have you estimated at least a range or a high end of a wage subsidy?

**Ms PULFORD:** The Working for Victoria program I think provides us with some really helpful data about the rates for different types of work. Of course the—

**Ms VALLENCE:** I guess to determine your package, the \$250 million, an estimate of 10 000 people, there must be some sort of modelling that is used to derive that.

**Ms PULFORD:** Yes. Based on the experience through Working for Victoria but also historical experience with other programs, we are really confident about 10 000, and I hope to be with you this time next year telling you we are well ahead of target.

**Ms VALLENCE:** Hopefully. Could you provide that to the committee on notice, the details around—

### Answer:

Through the 2020-21 Budget, the Government is investing \$250 million to create 10,000 jobs, providing sustainable employment opportunities with a focus on the people and places that need it most. This investment will target jobs that continue beyond the period of subsidisation – resulting in long term employment outcomes. At least \$150 million of this funding will create jobs for women – particularly women aged 45 and older.

The target is based on the level of funding provided and historical information on the cost of jobs created through other relevant programs, including through the experiences of the Working for Victoria Fund.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee | Into the Inquiry of 2020-21 Budget Estimates

The \$500 million Working for Victoria initiative has created more than 11,000 new jobs for Victorians in quick pandemic-response short term roles and longer-term six-month jobs supporting local communities.

A major focus of these new jobs is supporting women back into the workforce and providing jobseekers with access to quality jobs and career pathways.

We want to see people in long-term jobs, so this new approach will also require employers to make a co-investment and to provide ongoing employment for job seekers.