

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2012-2013

Outcome 3 – Employment

DEEWR Question No. CA0015_13

Senator Scullion asked on 1 June 2012, Hansard page 52

Question

Exemptions from the activity test

Provide a breakdown of exemptions from activity test/participation requirements by Indigenous/non-Indigenous recipients for each year.

Answer

The following tables provide a breakdown by exemption category of income support recipients with an exemption from the activity test or participation requirements by indigenous/non-indigenous status as at end March for the last three years.

Table A: Exemptions from activity test/participation requirements as at 26 March 2010

Exemption Category	Number of recipients with exemption from activity test or participation requirements		
	Not Indigenous	Indigenous	Total
Temporary illness, injury, disability			
Incapacitated due to illness, injury or disability of a temporary nature	35,172	1,874	37,046
Incapacitated due to serious illness e.g. cancer, acquired brain injury	275	13	288
Undertaking a rehabilitation program to assist returning to work	<20	<20	<20
Caring responsibility			
Principal Carer of a large family (four or more children 6-15 years old, or 16-18 years old and still completing secondary study)	2,744	355	3,099
Temporary unexpected caring responsibilities (caring for an adult or child)	1,361	110	1,471
Is an emergency and respite foster carer	1,072	195	1,267

	Not Indigenous	Indigenous	Total
Caring for a child with high needs, however, carer not eligible for Carer Payment	1,384	46	1,430
Principal Carer providing home schooling	1,042	<20	1,058
Is facilitating distance education	177	<20	184
Principal Carer caring for a child through the result of complying with a court order	86	<20	95
Principal Carer caring for a child through the result of complying with a care plan	<20	<20	<20
Receiving Special Benefits income support carer allowance/payment	<20	<20	<20
Receiving Special Benefits income support with a child under 6 years	<20	<20	<20
Personal circumstances			
Experiencing a major personal crisis e.g. homelessness	2,891	618	3,509
Pregnant and within 6 weeks of expected due date of giving birth	2,723	321	3,044
Refugee in their first 13 weeks in Australia	1,758	N/A	1,758
Refugee in their first 6 months in Australia undertaking a Preparatory Program	20	N/A	20
Other special circumstances – case by case circumstances beyond the job seekers control	627	222	849
Overseas	936	<20	940
Special family circumstances – case by case circumstances e.g. stressful separation	366	21	387
Bereavement	83	48	131
Has suffered a major personal disruption at home e.g. fire, burglary	133	<20	150
Undertaking a community service order	41	23	64
Has suffered a domestic violence/relationship breakdown	63	<20	67
Undertaking jury duty	<20	<20	<20
*Is claiming Disability Support Pension	3,809	308	4,117
Pending Further Assessment	3,649	151	3,800
Total With Exemption	60,431	4,362	64,793

*Claiming Disability Support Pension is an interim status whereby recipients do not have an Activity Test or participation requirement.

Source: DHS Administrative Data

Table B: Exemptions from activity test/participation requirements as at 25 March 2011

Exemption category	Number of recipients with exemption from activity test or participation requirements		
	Not Indigenous	Indigenous	Total
Temporary illness, injury, disability			
Incapacitated due to illness, injury or disability of a temporary nature	36,299	1,946	38,245
Incapacitated due to serious illness e.g. cancer, acquired brain injury	1,171	55	1,226
Undertaking a rehabilitation program to assist returning to work	<20	<20	<20
Caring responsibility			
Principal Carer of a large family (four or more children 6-15 years old, or 16-18 years old and still completing secondary study)	2,828	347	3,175
Temporary unexpected caring responsibilities (caring for an adult or child)	1,677	164	1,841
Is an emergency and respite foster carer	1,156	182	1,338
Caring for a child with high needs, however, carer not eligible for Carer Payment	1,161	59	1,220
Principal Carer providing home schooling	1,051	<20	1,070
Is facilitating distance education	168	<20	173
Principal Carer caring for a child through the result of complying with a court order	65	<20	76
Principal Carer caring for a child through the result of complying with a care plan	<20	<20	<20
Receiving Special Benefits income support carer allowance/payment	<20	<20	<20
Receiving Special Benefits income support with a child under 6 years	<20	<20	<20
Personal circumstances			
Experiencing a major personal crisis e.g. homelessness	3,077	666	3,743
Pregnant and within 6 weeks of expected due date of giving birth	2,353	310	2,663
Refugee in their first 13 weeks in Australia	1,409	N/A	1,409
Refugee in their first 6 months in Australia undertaking a Preparatory Program	<20	N/A	<20
Other special circumstances – case by case circumstances beyond the job seekers control	674	224	898
Overseas	574	<20	583

	Not Indigenous	Indigenous	Total
Special family circumstances – case by case circumstances e.g. stressful separation	298	46	344
Bereavement	131	53	184
Has suffered a major personal disruption at home e.g. fire, burglary	160	<20	173
Undertaking a community service order	63	<20	75
Has suffered a domestic violence/relationship breakdown	48	<20	53
Undertaking jury duty	<20	<20	<20
*Is claiming Disability Support Pension	2,727	326	3,053
Total With Exemption	57,137	4,453	61,590

*Claiming Disability Support Pension is an interim status whereby recipients do not have an Activity Test or participation requirement.

Source: DHS Administrative Data

Table C: Exemptions from activity test/participation requirements on 30 March 2012

Exemption category	Number of recipients with exemption from activity test or participation requirements		
	Not Indigenous	Indigenous	Total
Temporary illness, injury, disability			
Incapacitated due to illness, injury or disability of a temporary nature	42,102	2,493	44,595
Incapacitated due to serious illness e.g. cancer, acquired brain injury	1,121	60	1,181
Undertaking a rehabilitation program to assist returning to work	<20	<20	<20
Caring responsibility			
Principal Carer of a large family (four or more children 6-15 years old, or 16-18 years old and still completing secondary study)	3,110	389	3,499
Temporary unexpected caring responsibilities (caring for an adult or child)	1,918	152	2,070
Is an emergency and respite foster carer	1,191	217	1,408
Caring for a child with high needs, however, carer not eligible for Carer Payment	925	45	970
Principal Carer providing home schooling	1,097	29	1,126
Is facilitating distance education	153	<20	155
Principal Carer caring for a child through the result of complying with a court order	61	<20	67
Principal Carer caring for a child through the result of complying with a care plan	24	<20	28
Receiving Special Benefits income support carer allowance/payment	<20	<20	<20
Receiving Special Benefits income support with a child under 6 years	<20	<20	<20
Personal circumstances			
Experiencing a major personal crisis e.g. homelessness	3,520	795	4,315
Pregnant and within 6 weeks of expected due date of giving birth	2,223	322	2,545
Refugee in their first 13 weeks in Australia	1,430	N/A	1,430
Refugee in their first 6 months in Australia undertaking a Preparatory Program	<20	N/A	<20
Other special circumstances – case by case circumstances beyond the job seekers control	704	279	983
Overseas	781	<20	783

	Not Indigenous	Indigenous	Total
Special family circumstances – case by case circumstances e.g. stressful separation	217	<20	230
Bereavement	112	48	160
Has suffered a major personal disruption at home e.g. fire, burglary	177	22	199
Declared natural disaster	<20	<20	<20
Undertaking a community service order	61	<20	73
Has suffered a domestic violence/relationship breakdown	98	24	122
Undertaking jury duty	<20	<20	<20
*Is claiming Disability Support Pension	2,738	275	3,013
Total With Exemption	63,802	5,192	68,994

*Claiming Disability Support Pension is an interim status whereby recipients do not have an Activity Test or participation requirement.

Source: DHS Administrative Data