

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000164

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Relates to previous Employment Question No EMSQ15-000461

Question

Update to EMSQ15-000461 - Activity Test Exemptions

Please provide updates to the following QoNs from Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015-16 using the latest available data/period: EMSQ15-000461.

Answer

The following table provides a breakdown by exemption category of income support recipients of Newstart Allowance, Parenting Payment Single, Youth Allowance (other) and Special Benefit who are determined to be current (i.e. entitled to be paid) on the Department of Human Services payment system and not in receipt of a zero rate of payment, with an exemption from their mutual obligation requirements, by Indigenous/non-Indigenous recipients, as at end December 2015.

Exemption Category	Indigenous	% of Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	% of non-Indigenous	Total
Temporary Incapacity					
Temporary incapacity due to illness, injury or disability	4531	53.2%	62780	69.9%	67311
Incapacity due to serious illness requiring long recovery periods, e.g. cancer, severe stroke, brain injuries, physical injuries.	179	2.1%	2047	2.3%	2226
Caring Responsibilities					
Principal Carer Parent of a large family - four or more children	750	8.8%	5272	5.9%	6022
Caring Responsibilities temporarily caring for an adult or child/ren	276	3.2%	2153	2.4%	2429

Principal Carer Parent registered and active foster carer and non-Principal Carer Parent emergency and respite foster carer	295	3.5%	1421	1.6%	1716
Principal Carer Parent providing home schooling, includes main supporter of one or more secondary school children	40	0.5%	1534	1.7%	1574
Principal Carer Parent caring for a child with high needs, however, carer not eligible for Carer Payment	<20	np	np	np	341
Principal Carer Parent providing / facilitating distance education, includes main supporter of one or more secondary school children	<20	np	np	np	196
Principal Carer caring for a child related to them where they are not a parent – through a Family Law Court Order	<20	np	np	np	100
Principal Carer Parent - Special Family Circumstances eg providing kinship or family care, care for aged or disabled adult family member or has a 6 year old child not yet started school	<20	np	np	np	98
Principal Carer caring for a child related to them where they are not a parent – through a State or Territory Court Plan	<20	np	np	np	30
Caring Responsibilities Exemption for Temporary Visa Holders with Dependent Child under 6	<20	np	<20	np	<20
Personal circumstances					
Major personal crisis, e.g. homelessness, witness protection, domestic violence for non-Principal Carer Parents, Indigenous job seeker undertaking cultural or sorry business	1125	13.2%	4097	4.6%	5222
Claiming Disability Support Pension*	460	5.4%	4827	5.4%	5287

Expectant mother within 6 weeks of expected due date of giving birth and 6 weeks after giving birth	247	2.9%	1639	1.8%	1886
Other special circumstances – case by case assessment of circumstances beyond the job seeker’s control	344	4.0%	1035	1.5%	1379
Refugee first 13 weeks in Australia	<20	np	np	np	849
Approved overseas absence	<20	np	np	np	732
Principal Carer Parent - domestic violence	99	1.2%	303	0.3%	402
Major personal disruption at home, e.g. fire, burglary, storm, accident	32	0.4%	174	0.2%	206
Bereavement period	92	1.1%	107	0.1%	199
Community Service Order	<20	np	np	np	53
Principal Carer Parent - relationship breakdown	<20	np	<20	np	<20
Undertaking jury duty	<20	np	<20	np	<20
Refugee first 6 months in Australia undertaking preparatory Adult Migrant English Programme	<20	np	<20	np	<20
Declared natural disaster	<20	np	<20	np	<20
Asylum seeker release	<20	np	np	np	67
Total with exemptions	8524	100.0%	89829	100.0%	98353

Source: Department of Human Services administrative data.

**Claiming Disability Support Pension is an interim status during assessment of the claim whereby claimants do not have mutual obligation requirements.*

Note: In order to protect individuals' privacy, identified populations <20 are reported as <20 and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are not provided (np).

The following table provides a breakdown by exemption category of income support recipients of Newstart Allowance, Parenting Payment Single, Youth Allowance (other) and Special Benefit who are determined to be current (i.e. entitled to be paid) on the Department of Human Services payment system and not in receipt of a zero rate of payment with an exemption from their mutual obligation requirements, by gender, as at end December 2015.

Exemption Category	Female	% of Female	Male	% of Male	Total
Temporary Incapacity					
Temporary incapacity due to illness, injury or disability	32,817	61.4%	34,494	76.8%	67,311
Incapacity due to serious illness requiring long recovery periods, e.g. cancer, severe stroke, brain injuries, physical injuries.	1,064	2.0%	1162	2.6%	2,226
Caring Responsibilities					
Principal Carer Parent of a large family - four or more children	5,560	10.4%	462	1.0%	6,022
Caring Responsibilities temporarily caring for an adult or child/ren	1,513	2.8%	916	2.1%	2,429
Principal Carer Parent registered and active foster carer and non-Principal Carer Parent emergency and respite foster carer	1,490	2.8%	226	0.5%	1,716
Principal Carer Parent providing home schooling, includes main supporter of one or more secondary school children	1,450	2.7%	124	0.3%	1,574
Principal Carer Parent caring for a child with high needs, however, carer not eligible for Carer Payment	311	0.6%	30	0.1%	341
Principal Carer Parent providing / facilitating distance education, includes main supporter of one or more secondary school children	np	np	<20	np	196
Principal Carer caring for a child related to them where they are not a parent – through a Family Law Court Order	np	np	<20	np	100

Principal Carer Parent - Special Family Circumstances eg providing kinship or family care, care for aged or disabled adult family member or has a 6 year old child not yet started school	64	0.1%	34	0.1%	98
Principal Carer caring for a child related to them where they are not a parent – through a State or Territory Court Plan	np	np	<20	np	30
Caring Responsibilities Exemption for Temporary Visa Holders with Dependent Child under 6	<20	np	<20	np	<20
Personal circumstances					
Claiming Disability Support Pension*	2,350	4.4%	2,937	6.5%	5,287
Major personal crisis, e.g. homelessness, witness protection, domestic violence for non-Principal Carer Parents, Indigenous job seeker undertaking cultural or sorry business	2,315	4.3%	2907	6.5%	5,222
Expectant mother within 6 weeks of expected due date of giving birth and 6 weeks after giving birth	np	np	<20	np	1,886
Other special circumstances – case by case assessment of circumstances beyond the job seeker's control	615	1.2%	764	1.7%	1,379
Refugee first 13 weeks in Australia	358	0.7%	491	1.1%	849
Approved overseas absence	662	1.2%	70	0.2%	732
Principal Carer Parent - domestic violence	379	0.7%	23	0.1%	402
Major personal disruption at home, e.g. fire, burglary, storm, accident	119	0.2%	87	0.2%	206
Bereavement period	117	0.2%	82	0.2%	199
Asylum seeker release	<20	np	np	np	67
Community Service Order	<20	np	np	np	53
Declared Natural Disaster	<20	np	<20	np	<20
Undertaking jury duty	<20	np	<20	np	<20

Principal Carer Parent - relationship breakdown	<20	np	np	np	<20
Refugee first 6 months in Australia undertaking preparatory Adult Migrant English Programme	np	np	<20	np	<20
Total with exemptions	53,418	100.0%	44935	100.0%	98,353

Source: Department of Human Services administrative data.

**Claiming Disability Support Pension is an interim status during assessment of the claim whereby claimants do not have mutual obligation requirements.*

Note: In order to protect individuals' privacy, identified populations <20 are reported as <20 and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are not provided (np).

The following table provides a breakdown of income support recipients by length of exemption as at end December 2015.

Length of exemption	Number of exemptions (all job seekers)	% of exemptions (all job seekers)
Six months or more	22,630	23.0%
Less than six months	75,723	77.0%
Total	98,353	100.0%

Source: Department of Human Services administrative data.

Note: Length of exemption is determined by the earliest start date to the exemption end/review or extract date, and includes consecutive exemptions which have been granted to the same job seeker.