

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000745

Senator Cameron provided in writing.

Question

Reconnection penalties

- How many Reconnection penalties were applied in the financial years 2013-14, 2014-2015, and so far in 2015-16? How many were imposed on job seekers with a Centrelink 'vulnerability indicator'?
- For each time period please list by type of vulnerability indicator, and provide a breakdown by Indigenous and non-Indigenous job seekers.

Answer

In the tables below, to protect individuals' privacy, those cells containing less than 20 individuals are reported as <20.

- The following table shows, for financial years 2013-14 and 2014-2015 and the September quarter 2015-16, the total number of applied reconnection failures and the number of applied reconnection failures for job seekers with a Centrelink Vulnerability Indicator.

	2013-14	2014-15	Sept Qtr 2015-16
All Applied Reconnection Failures	108,092	99,165	221
Applied Reconnection Failures – job seekers with a Vulnerability Indicator	21,199	17,677	<20

Source: Department of Human Services administrative data.

Note: Reconnection penalty numbers have reduced since the final stage of the Strengthening the Job seeker Compliance Framework measure came into effect on 1 July 2015. This last stage of the measure also introduced Non-Attendance Failures into social security law, which are different from Reconnection penalties.

b) The following table shows the number of applied reconnection failures between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014 to job seekers with a Vulnerability Indicator by type of VI and whether the job seeker is Indigenous or non-Indigenous.

Type of Vulnerability Indicator	Applied Reconnection Failures		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total
Cognitive or neurological impairment	149	283	432
Drug/alcohol dependent	1,607	2,508	4,115
Homelessness	1,928	3,320	5,248
Illness/injury requiring frequent treatment	356	1,024	1,380
Job seeker in transition	180	192	372
Nationally approved vulnerability	<20	<20	25
Psychiatric problems or mental illness	1,291	5,244	6,535
Recent traumatic relationship breakdown	117	187	304
Release prison (in jail for more than 14 days)	707	938	1,645
Served an 8 week NPP in the previous 12 months	26	58	84
Significant caring responsibilities	51	96	147
Significant lack of literacy and language skills	1,309	503	1,812

Source: Department of Human Services administrative data.

NOTE: A job seeker can have more than one VI. Reconnection failures are counted once per VI type, hence totals won't match overall VI total.

The following table shows the number of applied reconnection failures between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015 to job seekers with a Vulnerability Indicator by type of VI and whether the job seeker is Indigenous or non-Indigenous.

Type of Vulnerability Indicator	Applied Reconnection Failures		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total
Cognitive or neurological impairment	169	317	486
Drug/alcohol dependent	1,815	2,842	4,657
Homelessness	2,150	3,719	5,869
Illness/injury requiring frequent treatment	408	1,175	1,583
Job seeker in transition	207	218	425
Nationally approved vulnerability	<20	<20	30
Psychiatric problems or mental illness	1,482	5,979	7,461
Recent traumatic relationship breakdown	128	221	349
Release prison (in jail for more than 14 days)	810	1,078	1,888
Served an 8 week NPP in the previous 12 months	30	65	95
Significant caring responsibilities	56	102	158
Significant lack of literacy and language skills	1,475	579	2,054

Source: Department of Human Services administrative data.

NOTE: A job seeker can have more than one VI. Reconnection failures are counted once per VI type, hence totals won't match overall VI total.

The following table shows the number of reconnection failures applied between 1 July and 30 September 2015 to job seekers with a Vulnerability Indicator by type of VI and whether the job seeker is Indigenous or non-Indigenous.

Type of Vulnerability Indicator	Applied Reconnection Failures		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total
Drug/alcohol dependent	0	<20	<20
Illness/injury requiring frequent treatment	<20	0	<20
Psychiatric problems or mental illness	<20	<20	<20
Release prison (in jail for more than 14 days)	<20	0	<20
Significant lack of literacy and language skills	<20	0	<20

Source: Department of Human Services administrative data.

NOTE: A job seeker can have more than one VI. Reconnection failures are counted once per VI type.