

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

**Outcome 3 - Employment**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0149\_14

**Senator Cash asked on 4 June 2013, Hansard page 56**

**Question**

**Exemption from job seeker participation requirements - Newstart recipients**

Ms Paul: I did not think you meant—

Senator CASH: By postcode or street? No.

Ms Paul: Phew!

Senator CASH: Are any of those persons who have been exempted from job seeker participation requirements former persons who have been moved from parenting payment onto Newstart as a result of the recent eligibility changes? If so, what are the reasons for this cohort having been exempted?

Ms Drayton: Most of the parents who transitioned from parenting payment to Newstart were already on the JSA requirements, so it was not as if there was a large group that came through. If they had an exemption, it would have been a pre-existing exemption and there would have obviously been some new exemptions put on since then, but I do not have that broken down.

Senator CASH: Could I get you to take it on notice?

Ms Drayton: Absolutely.

**Answer**

Of the grandfathered Parenting Payment Partnered (PPP) and Parenting Payment Single (PPS) Recipients who transitioned to Newstart Allowance on 1 January 2013, there were 59 549 job seekers who remained on Newstart Allowance as at 29 March 2013. The following table provides a breakdown of those job seekers with current exemptions as at 29 March 2013, by exemption category.

Exemption Category	Number of Job Seekers with an Exemption	
	Parenting Payment Partnered	Parenting Payment Single
<b>Temporary incapacity</b>		
Temporary incapacity due to illness, injury or disability	433	1851
Incapacity due to serious illness requiring long recovery periods, e.g. cancer, severe stroke, brain injuries, physical injuries.	<20	54
<b>Caring responsibility</b>		
Principal Carer Parent of a large family - four or more children	583	745
Principal Carer Parent providing home schooling, includes main supporter of one or more secondary school children	174	399
Principal Carer Parent registered and active foster carer and non Principal Carer Parent emergency and respite foster carer	95	429
Carer Parent caring for a child with high needs, however, carer not eligible for Carer Payment	62	256
Caring Responsibilities temporarily caring for an adult or child/ren	54	148
Principal Carer Parent providing facilitating distance education, includes main supporter of one or more secondary school children	22	63
Principal Carer caring for a child related to them where they are not a parent – through a Family Law Court Order	<20	37
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	<20
Carer caring for a child related to them where they are not a parent – through a State or Territory	<20	<20
Caring Responsibilities Exemption for Temporary Visa Holders with Dependent Child under 6	<20	<20
<b>Personal circumstances</b>		
Major personal crisis, e.g. homelessness, witness protection, domestic violence for non Principal Carer Parents, indigenous job seeker undertaking cultural or sorry business	<20	166
Claiming Disability Support Pension*	22	94
Expectant mother within 6 weeks of expected due date of giving birth and 6 weeks after giving birth	<20	68
Other special circumstances – case by case	<20	44

Exemption Category	Number of Job Seekers with an Exemption	
	Parenting Payment Partnered	Parenting Payment Single
assessment of circumstances beyond the job seekers control		
Approved overseas absence	<20	<20
Major personal disruption at home, e.g. fire, burglary, storm, accident	<20	<20
Bereavement period	<20	<20
Principal Carer Parent - domestic violence	<20	<20
Declared Natural Disaster	<20	<20
Community Service Order	<20	<20
<b>Total with exemptions</b>	<b>1496</b>	<b>4425</b>

Source: DHS Administrative Data as at 29 March 2013

\*Claiming Disability Support Pension is an interim status whereby recipients do not have an Activity Test or Participation Requirement.

Note - In order to protect the privacy of individuals, populations less than twenty are reported as "<20".