

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

**Outcome 4 - Employment**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0683\_12**

**Senator Siewert provided in writing.**

**Question**

***Job seeker compliance and new suspension provisions since 1 July 2011***

In relation to the article in the Sunday Telegraph, 16 October 2011, on the suspension of payments since 1 July, please provide:

1. details of those whose payments were suspended, by age, gender, payment type, Indigenous status
2. the number of job seekers who had a vulnerability indicator
3. a breakdown by type of vulnerability indicator(s)
4. how many job seekers subsequently went on to have payments suspended and type of vulnerability indicator(s).

**Answer**

1. **Job seekers whose payments were suspended under the new compliance arrangements from 1 July to 30 September 2011 by characteristic**

<b>Characteristic</b>		<b>Number of job seekers</b>
<b>Age</b>	Under 21	15 213
	21 to 30	27 291
	31 to 40	14 707
	41 to 54	9 248
	55 and over	1 423
<b>Gender</b>	Male	43 330
	Female	24 552
<b>Payment Type</b>	Newstart Allowance	48 286
	Youth Allowance	15 234
	Parenting Payment Partnered	403
	Parenting Payment Single	3 959
<b>Indigenous Status</b>	Indigenous	13 774
	Non Indigenous	54 108
<b>Total</b>		<b>67 882</b>

Source: DEEWR administrative data

Includes job seekers in Job Services Australia and Disability Employment Services.

**2. Job seekers whose payments were suspended under the new compliance arrangements from 1 July to 30 September 2011 by Vulnerability Indicator**

<b>Vulnerability Indicator</b>	<b>Number of job seekers</b>
Job seekers with a Vulnerability indicator	7 118
Job seekers who did not have a Vulnerability indicator	60 764
<b>Total</b>	<b>67 882</b>

Source: DEEWR administrative data

Includes job seekers in Job Services Australia and Disability Employment Services.

**3. Types of Vulnerability Indicator of job seekers whose payments were suspended under the new compliance arrangements from 1 July to 30 September 2011**

Some job seekers who were suspended had more than one type of Vulnerability Indicator on their record at the time. These job seekers have been counted under each relevant Indicator type in the table below. This is why the total number below is higher than the total number of job seekers with a Vulnerability indicator whose income support payment was suspended.

<b>Type of Vulnerability Indicator</b>	<b>Incidence</b>
Cognitive or neurological impairment	154
Drug/alcohol dependent	1 831
Homelessness	1 655
Illness/injury requiring frequent treatment	708
Job seeker in transition	37
Nationally approved vulnerability	627
Psychiatric problems or mental illness	17
Recent traumatic relationship breakdown	41
Released prisoner (in jail for more than 14 days)	3 054
Served an 8 week NPP in the previous 12 months	175
Significant caring responsibilities	338
Significant lack of literacy and language skills	93
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 730</b>

Source: DEEWR administrative data.

Includes job seekers in Job Services Australia and Disability Employment Services.

**4.** As indicated in the New Job Seeker Compliance Arrangements Fact Sheet on the DEEWR internet site (address below), 22 406 job seekers who missed initial appointments did not have their payments suspended because they had Vulnerability Indicators. Of these, 7 818 went on to have their payment suspended for failing to attend a reconnection appointment (see response to Question 2). A breakdown of their Vulnerability Indicator types is provided in response to Question 3.

([www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/ResearchStatistics/JobSeekerComplianceData/ComplianceData/Pages/home.aspx](http://www.deewr.gov.au/Employment/ResearchStatistics/JobSeekerComplianceData/ComplianceData/Pages/home.aspx))