

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Outcome 3 – Employment

DEEWR Question No. EW0642_13

Senator Sinodinos asked on 17 October 2012, Hansard page 73

Question

Centrelink-granted exemptions from Job Search

Senator SINODINOS: How many job seekers currently have a Centrelink-granted exemption from Job Search and what is the break-down?

Answer

Of the 747,771 activity tested job seekers receiving income support in Australia, the following table provides a breakdown by exemption category of income support recipients with an exemption from the activity test or participation requirements, including job search, as at 31 August 2012:

Exemption Category	Total
Temporary incapacity	
Temporary incapacity due to illness, injury or disability	46,954
Incapacity due to serious illness requiring long recovery periods, e.g. cancer, severe stroke, brain injuries, physical injuries.	1235
Caring responsibility	
Principal Carer Parent of a large family - four or more children	3660
Caring Responsibilities temporarily caring for an adult or child/ren	2254
Principal Carer Parent who is a registered and active foster carer and non Principal Carer Parent who is an emergency and respite foster carer	1431
Principal Carer Parent providing home schooling, includes main supporter of one or more secondary school children	1235
Principal Carer Parent caring for a child with high needs, however, carer not eligible for Carer Payment	939
Principal Carer Parent providing facilitating distance education, includes main supporter of one or more secondary school children	176

Exemption Category	Total
Principal Carer Parent - Special Family Circumstances e.g. providing kinship or family care, care for aged or adult family member with disability or has a 6-year-old child not yet started school	173
Principal Carer caring for a child related to them where they are not a parent – through a Family Law Court Order	63
Principal Carer caring for a child related to them where they are not a parent – through a State or Territory Court Plan	24
Caring Responsibilities Exemption for Temporary Visa Holders not eligible for Carer Payment	<20
Caring Responsibilities Exemption for Temporary Visa Holders with Dependent Child under 6	<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	4547
Expectant mother within 6 weeks of expected due date of giving birth and 6 weeks after giving birth	2563
Refugee first 13 weeks in Australia	2385
Claiming Disability Support Pension*	2269
Other special circumstances – case by case assessment of circumstances beyond the job seekers control	1000
Approved overseas absence	744
Major personal disruption at home, e.g. fire, burglary, storm, accident	212
Bereavement period	180
Principal Carer Parent - domestic violence	115
Community Service Order	80
Undertaking jury duty	<20
Refugee first 6 months in Australia undertaking preparatory Adult Migrant English Program	<20
Principal Carer Parent - relationship breakdown	<20
Total with exemptions	72,270

Source: DHS Administrative Data as at 31 August 2012

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