

From:
To:
Cc:
Subject: FW: QoNs from committee hearing [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Date: Wednesday, 20 August 2014 4:39:09 PM
Attachments: [Bills timetable.docx](#)

For Official Use Only

Committee Secretary

Community Affairs Legislation Committee Inquiry into the Social Security Legislation Amendment (Stronger Penalties for Serious Failures) Bill 2014

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Hansard Transcript from Monday's public hearing and to provide responses to the questions the Department of Employment took on notice at the hearing. We are satisfied that the Hansard transcript is correct.

Here are the responses to the questions on notice from the hearing:

What are the reasons for recording Vulnerability Indicators?

- psychiatric problems or mental illness in the last six months
- cognitive or neurological impairment
- illness or injury requiring frequent treatment
- drug or alcohol dependency which may impede participation
- eight week non-payment period in the last twelve months
- homelessness
- recent traumatic relationship breakdown, especially if domestic violence is involved
- significant language and literacy issues
- recent prison release
- significant caring responsibilities
- a period of transition during which the job seeker's capacity to comply with their requirements may be affected. For example, had a child leave care and as a result their participation requirements have changed.

For job seekers who had persistent non-compliance penalties waived in 2012-13, can you provide a further breakdown of whether the waiver was the job seeker's first, second, third etc waiver?

Persistent non-compliance penalties 2012-13														
	Applied		Waived		First waiver		Second waiver		Third waiver		Fourth waiver		Fifth or subsequent waiver	
	No	% of applied	No	% of waived	No	% of waived	No	% of waived	No	% of waived	No	% of waived	No	% of waived
	25,286	18,914	75%	12,973	69%	4,074	22%	1,272	7%	448	2%	147	1%	

What is the membership of the Job Services Australia Advisory Group?

- The Department of Employment
- The Department of Human Services
- The Department of Social Services
- The Department of Industry
- The National Employment Services Association

Can you provide a timetable for the introduction of all job seeker compliance-related legislation and for any consultation on the legislation?

Please see attached document.

Regards,

Derek Stiller
 Branch Manager, Job Seeker Participation ,
 Job Services Australia Group
 Department of Employment

We acknowledge the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to them and their cultures, and to the elders both past and present.

Job seeker compliance-related legislation – timetable for introduction of Bills and consultation

Social Security Legislation Amendment (Stronger Penalties for Serious Failures) Bill 2014	
22 May 2014	Job Services Australia Advisory Group advised of proposed amendments.
4 June 2014	Bill introduced to House of Representatives.
23 July – 26 August	Information on Bill provided to provider staff from JSA, DES and RJCP as part of a broader compliance training package (delivered face-to-face in capitals cities and regional centres).
15 September	If passed – commencement.
Social Security Legislation Amendment (Strengthening the Job Seeker Compliance Framework) Bill 2014	
28 July 2014	Release of the Exposure Draft of the Purchasing Arrangements for Employment Services 2015-2020. A series of information sessions was run by the Department of Employment through July and August in Melbourne, Bendigo, Brisbane, Adelaide, Sydney, Hobart, Canberra and Northern Territory. The Department has also established an on-line Question and Answer facility for providers relating to the proposed arrangements.
Week beginning 22 September 2014	Information sessions on the Bill to be provided for key external stakeholders.
	Proposed introduction of Bill to House of Representatives.
November 2014	Face-to-face provider training on Part 1 of the Bill to be delivered nationally.
1 January 2015	If passed - commencement of Part 1 of the Bill – amendment to maintain income support payment suspension pending job seeker attendance at a provider appointment (rather than until agreement to attend).
April-May 2015	Face-to-face provider training on Part 2 of the Bill to be delivered nationally.
1 July 2015	If passed - commencement of Part 2 of the Bill – job seekers who fail to attend any appointment with their provider without a valid reason will not be back paid for the period between their initial non-attendance and their attendance at a rescheduled appointment.
Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment (2014 Budget Measures No. 2) Bill 2014 Schedule 9 – Exclusion Periods	
18 June 2014	Bill introduced to House of Representatives.
18-27 June 2014	Stakeholder consultation in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne with peak advocacy groups and State and Territory government conducted by the Department of Social Services in conjunction with the Department of Human Services and the Department of Employment regarding all DSS Budget 2014-15 measures.
1 January 2015	If passed – commencement.