

Committee

Public Hearing – 09 March 2021
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee - Hearing into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Strengthening Income Support) Bill 2021

Question reference number: IQ21-000008

Senator: Rachel Siewert

Type of Question: Spoken. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 10 March 2021

Question:

Did you seek advice on whether 41.2% of NMW was an appropriate reference point / benchmark?

Answer:

The department consults broadly across government and engages with stakeholders in developing policy advice for government.

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Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee - Hearing into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Strengthening Income Support) Bill 2021

Question reference number: IQ21-000011

Senator: Malarndirri McCarthy

Type of Question: Spoken. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 10 March 2021

Question:

How may job applications per available job will there be when the 20 job searches a month returns, and in 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24?

Answer:

It is not possible to provide a projection on the number of job applications per job.

There are more than five million movements into, or out of, employment every year. The dynamic nature of the labour market shows that it constantly provides opportunities for job seekers regardless of the level or rate of employment growth. Even at the height of the pandemic, there were still 291,000 movements into employment in April 2020. There were 333,100 movements into employment in January 2021 (latest available ABS data).

The above advice was provided by the Department of Education, Skills and Employment.

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Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee - Hearing into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Strengthening Income Support) Bill 2021

Question reference number: IQ21-000018

Senator: Malarndirri McCarthy

Type of Question: Spoken. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 10 March 2021

Question:

How many people have received suspensions since the return of mutual obligations, how many in CDP?

Answer:

The Department of Education, Skills and Employment advises, for the period 28 September 2020 to 28 February 2021 (cumulative) there were a total of 616,862 job seekers across jobactive, ParentsNext and Disability Employment Services that had their payment suspended.

The National Indigenous Australians Agency advises that between 19 October 2020 and 18 February 2021 19,597 Community Development Program job seekers received an income support payment suspension.