

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Parliamentary Committee Inquiry Hearing**  
**Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs**

**Inquiry into ParentsNext, including its trial and subsequent broader rollout**

**Department of Jobs and Small Business Question No. SQ19-000181**

**Senator Rachel Siewert provided in writing.**

**Question**

**PCI - ParentsNext: Participation exemptions**

If a participant can demonstrate they are searching for work and already have qualifications can they be exempt?

**Answer**

Having qualifications and searching for work are not grounds for an exemption. However, if a participant wants to search for work and does not need additional support from their provider to improve their work readiness or find employment, they can have their job search counted as their ParentsNext activity.

While searching for work, these participants would need to attend a quarterly appointment with their provider to review their progress and to check whether any additional support is required.

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**Inquiry into ParentsNext, including its trial and subsequent broader rollout**

**Department of Jobs and Small Business Question No. SQ19-000196**

**Senator Murray Watt provided in writing.**

**Question**

**PCI - ParentsNext: Family Violence**

1. How many participants have experienced family violence?
2. How many participants have disclosed to a provider that they have experienced family violence?
3. How many participants have been exempt from the program due to family violence?
4. How many participants have been referred to other specialist services? How many participants have been referred to family violence specialist service?

**Answer**

1. As participants choose whether to disclose if they have experienced family violence, the department does not have a definitive answer to this question.
2. Between 1 July 2018 and 31 December 2018, 1,805 participants have indicated they have experienced or are experiencing domestic violence and this has been recorded in the department's system. This includes disclosures through an exemption or by other means.
3. Between 1 July 2018 and 31 December 2018, 621 participants received the Domestic Violence or Relationship Breakdown exemption.
4. Between 1 July 2018 and 31 December 2018, according to the department's records, 39 parents had been referred to activities conducted by specialist services for or relating to family violence.