

Suitable work

11 broad conditions

Before applying any penalty, the Department of Human Services must establish that the job seeker did not have a reasonable excuse for their failure. In addition, before applying a penalty for refusing work, it must be established that the job was suitable for the job seeker. Work is considered unsuitable, and no penalty can be applied, if the work:

- requires particular skills, experience or qualifications that the person does not have, and appropriate training will not be provided by the employer;
- might aggravate a pre-existing illness, disability or injury and medical evidence has been provided;
- involves health or safety risks and would contravene an occupational health and safety law;
- involves terms and conditions that are less generous than the applicable statutory conditions;
- involves commuting from home to work that would be unreasonably difficult (including, for principal carer parents, any time taken to access child care);
- would require a principal carer of a child or children to work during hours when appropriate care and supervision of the child/ren is not available;
- involves working more hours than a person's assessed capacity,
- involves enlistment in the Defence force or the Reserve forces,
- is the subject of industrial disputation;
- would require the person to change their residence; or
- in the Secretary's opinion, is unsuitable for any other reason (for example, on the basis of moral, cultural or religious grounds).