

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous
Topic: Income support payment CDP suspension

Senator: Dodson

Question reference number: 200

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 July 2017

Number of pages: 1

Question:

- a) How many instances were there of payments being suspended for 8 weeks? And how many individuals had their payments suspended during this quarter?
- b) How many individuals have re-engaged with CDP after having payments suspended?

Answer:

- a) In the December quarter (1 October to 31 December 2016), 7,551 serious failure eight-week non-payment periods were applied to 5,258 job seekers for persistent non-compliance.
- b) A job seeker can end a serious failure period at any time if they agree to commence a compliance activity with their provider, and when this occurs, it is counted as a waiver. The job seeker is then required to re-engage with their provider and undertake their compliance activity.

Income support is conditionally payable when a job seeker agrees to undertake a compliance activity. The Department of Human Services can reinstate the serious failure period if the job seeker then fails to attend the appointment with their provider or fails to enter into a Job Plan that includes the compliance activity requirement.

94.6 per cent serious failure eight week non-payment periods (7,146 penalties) were either fully or partially waived when the job seeker agreed to commence a compliance activity with their provider.