

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES - 29 MAY 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: No Show No Pay Penalties

Question reference number: HS 97

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 27 July 2012

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) What are the number of people affected by No Show No Pay penalties over the last 12 months Indigenous/non-Indigenous job seekers and by urban / regional / remote status (as a total figure and as a percentage).
- b) In the release on the remote servicing Job seeker changes, it was mentioned that No Show No Pay penalties will apply. Given the unique issues that Indigenous job seekers face, has Centrelink made any changes to the rules or policies affecting remote job seekers?

Answer:

- a) The Department of Human Services (DHS) data does not distinguish between regional and urban so we cannot provide a breakdown for that part of the request. The table below provides details for National and Remote job seekers (the definition for remote is that used by Australian Bureau of Statistics). Data is for the 2011-12 financial year to date (as of 15 June 2012).

No Show No Pay	National			Remote ¹		
	Number of Penalties Applied	Number of job seekers affected	Number of job seekers affected as a percentage of population ²	Number of Penalties Applied	Number of job seekers affected	Number of job seekers affected as a percentage of population ²
Indigenous	19,553	8,960	7.6%	6,692	2,762	8.8%
Non-Indigenous	58,949	32,000	2.4%	315	194	1.5%
Total	78,502	40,960	2.8%	7,007	2,956	6.6%

¹ Remote data is obtained using the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA).

² Data is given as a percentage of the population affected, e.g. 7.6% of the national Indigenous Activity Tested (Job seeker) population is affected, 2.4% of the national non-Indigenous Activity Tested (Job seeker) population is affected etc.

Note: Due to different extraction rules and approaches to data presentation, the data presented by DHS and DEEWR may vary.

- b) No. DHS administers policy on this matter on behalf of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. That department has not advised of any changes to the current arrangements.