

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 5-6 JUNE 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Job Seeker Compliance

Question reference number: HS 187

Senator: Cameron

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 25 July 2014

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) How many Reconnection penalties were applied in 2012-13? How many were imposed on job seekers with a Centrelink 'vulnerability indicator'?
- b) Please list by type of vulnerability indicator, and provide a breakdown by Indigenous and non-Indigenous job seekers.

Answer:

- a) A total of 81,267 reconnection failures were applied in the 2012-13 financial year, this includes 20,609 reconnection failures applied to job seekers with a current Vulnerability Indicator. These reconnection failures resulted in a total of 66,172 financial penalties, including 16,736 for job seekers with a current Vulnerability Indicator.
- b) There were 23,430 applied reconnection failures for Indigenous job seekers, of whom 6,647 had a current Vulnerability Indicator. There were 57,837 applied reconnection failures for non-indigenous job seekers, of who 13,962 had a current Vulnerability Indicator. The breakdown of Vulnerability Indicators is:

Vulnerability Type	Number of Indigenous Job Seekers*	Number of non-Indigenous Job Seekers*
Cognitive Or Neurological Impairment	179	379
Drug/Alcohol Dependency Which Impedes Compliance	2,407	3,829
Homeless: Beyond The Control Of The Customer	2,078	4,489
Illness/Injury Requiring Frequent Treatment	445	1,454
Jobseeker in Transition	112	115
Significant Lack Of Literacy & Language Skills	1,606	592
Nationally Approved Vulnerability	<20	<20
Served 8 Week Non-Payment Period In Previous 12 Months	53	100
Psychiatric Problem Or Mental Illness	1,757	6,765
Recent Traumatic Relationship Breakdown	224	482
Released Prisoner (in gaol 14+ days)	513	629
Significant Caring Responsibilities	91	200

* **Confidentiality Provision:** All cells that have a value of less than 20, including zero, have been changed to display '<20'. This rule has been employed for privacy reasons. Where the total fields are included these will only have a value when it does not make it possible to work out the value of any '<20' fields.

Note that some job seekers have multiple Vulnerability Indicators.