

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000231

Senator Cameron provided in writing.

Relates to previous Department of Employment Question No EM1539_15

Question

Job Seeker Compliance

- a) How many Reconnection penalties were applied in 2013-14 and 2014-15 to date? How many were imposed on job seekers with a Centrelink 'vulnerability indicator'?
- b) For each time period please list by type of vulnerability indicator, and provide a breakdown by Indigenous and non-Indigenous job seekers.

Answer

- a. There were 108,092 reconnection failures applied between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014, of which 21,199 were applied to job seekers with a Vulnerability Indicator

Type of Vulnerability Indicator	Reconnection failures applied		
	Indigenous	non-Indigenous	Total
Cognitive or neurological impairment	183	398	581
Drug/alcohol dependent	2,374	3,816	6,190
Homelessness	2,513	5,037	7,550
Illness/injury requiring frequent treatment	493	1,470	1,963
Job seeker in transition	142	114	256
Nationally approved vulnerability	<20	<20	30
Psychiatric problems or mental illness	1,969	7,208	9,177
Recent traumatic relationship breakdown	164	314	478
Release prison (in jail for more than 14 days)	718	903	1,621
Served an 8 week NPP in the previous 12 months	62	99	161
Significant caring responsibilities	93	163	256
Significant lack of literacy and language skills	1,499	717	2,216

Note:

1. Job seekers can have more than one Vulnerability Indicator and penalties may therefore be counted more than once. For this reason, totals will not equal the 21,199 reconnection failures applied to job seekers with a Vulnerability Indicator.
2. In order to protect the privacy of individuals, data of less than twenty are reported at '<20'.

- b. There were 86,359 reconnection failures applied between 1 July 2014 and 31 March 2015, of which 15,735 were applied to job seekers with a Vulnerability Indicator

Type of Vulnerability Indicator	Reconnection failures applied		
	Indigenous	non-Indigenous	Total
Cognitive or neurological impairment	149	283	432
Drug/alcohol dependent	1,607	2,508	4,115
Homelessness	1,928	3,320	5,248
Illness/injury requiring frequent treatment	356	1,024	1,380
Job seeker in transition	180	192	372
Nationally approved vulnerability	<20	<20	25
Psychiatric problems or mental illness	1,291	5,244	6,535
Recent traumatic relationship breakdown	117	187	304
Release prison (in jail for more than 14 days)	707	938	1,645
Served an 8 week NPP in the previous 12 months	26	58	84
Significant caring responsibilities	51	96	147
Significant lack of literacy and language skills	1,309	503	1,812

Note:

1. Job seekers can have more than one Vulnerability Indicator and penalties may therefore be counted more than once. For this reason, totals will not equal the 15,735 reconnection failures applied to job seekers with a Vulnerability Indicator.
2. In order to protect the privacy of individuals, data of less than twenty are reported at '<20'.