

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000213

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

Job Seeker Compliance - no payment penalty

1. How many people have had an 8 week no payment penalty for refusing a suitable job offer and how many had the penalty waived, for each of the last two financial years, and from 1 July 2014 to date?

2. For the nominated dates, provide a breakdown by age and Indigenous status. Explain how this measure will provide savings of \$6.9 million?

Answer

The following tables show job seekers who incurred eight week non-payment penalty periods for refusing or failing to commence in a suitable job, and the number of those penalty periods which were waived, with breakdown by age and Indigenous status.

2012-13

	Applied penalties		Waivers	
	Number of penalties	Number of job seekers	Number of waivers	Number of job seekers
All Job seekers	1,718	1,567	1,227	1,108
Indigenous	166	146	120	101
Age Under 21	253	238	172	163
Age 21-30	723	650	534	471
Age 31-40	422	376	301	261
Age 41-54	284	268	197	190
Age 55+	36	35	23	23

2013-14

	Applied penalties		Waivers	
	Number of penalties	Number of job seekers	Number of waivers	Number of job seekers
All Job seekers	1,626	1,450	1,265	1,168
Indigenous	223	188	169	153
Age Under 21	273	252	204	188
Age 21-30	647	576	502	446
Age 31-40	327	295	258	231
Age 41-54	322	303	254	242
Age 55+	57	55	47	45

1 July 2014 – 31 March 2015

	Applied penalties		Waivers	
	Number of penalties	Number of job seekers	Number of waivers	Number of job seekers
All Job seekers	1,196	1,088	873	800
Indigenous	131	114	106	92
Age Under 21	186	167	125	115
Age 21-30	475	431	346	314
Age 31-40	258	232	200	179
Age 41-54	219	206	164	156
Age 55+	58	52	38	36

The proposed changes will result in more job seekers serving their eight week non-payment periods rather than having them waived. \$6.9 million in savings arise from reduced income support payment outlays to those job seekers.