

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-004219

Senator Kakoschke-Moore provided in writing.

Question

Number of job seekers who have had payments suspended

What is the number of job-seekers who have had their payment, firstly partially cut or, suspended?

- a) in the last year?
- b) In the last two years?

Answer

The table below provides data on the number of activity tested job seekers who incurred compliance-related income support payment suspensions or financial penalties in 2015, in 2016, and in both calendar years combined.

Period	Job Seekers [^] with Income Support Payment Suspensions	Job Seekers [^] with Financial Penalties
2015	1,463,420	574,215
2016	1,849,255	635,659
2015 and 2016 combined total	3,312,675	884,737

Source: Department of Employment data (DSS Extract)

[^] Where job seekers incur income support payment suspensions or financial penalties in multiple years, they are counted in the relevant year and once in the combined year total.