

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM1539_15

Senator Cameron provided in writing.

Question

Job Seeker Compliance

a) How many reconnection penalties were applied in 2013-14? 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) There were 108,092 reconnection failures applied in financial year 2013–14 and 21,199 were applied to job seekers with a Vulnerability Indicator.

(b)

Type of Vulnerability Indicator	Penalties 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 as "<20".