

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM1651_15

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Refers to previous Department of Employment Question No EW0149_14 which requested a breakdown of those grandfathered Parenting Payment recipients who transitioned to Newstart Allowance on 1 January 2013, still on Newstart Allowance with a current exemption.

Question

Activity Test Exemptions - Newstart/Parenting Payment

For Parenting Payment (Single and Partnered), update EW0149_14, Senate Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, QON, Budget Estimates 2013-14

Answer

Of the grandfathered Parenting Payment Partnered (PPP) and Parenting Payment Single (PPS) recipients who transitioned to Newstart Allowance on 1 January 2013, there were 44,356 job seekers still on Newstart Allowance as at 29 August 2014. The following table provides a breakdown of those job seekers with current exemptions as at 29 August 2014, by exemption category:

Exemption Category	Number of job seekers with an exemption	
	Previously on Parenting Payment Partnered	Previously on Parenting Payment Single
Approved overseas absence	<20	<20
Bereavement period	<20	<20
Caring Responsibilities temporarily caring for an adult or child/ren	<20	106
Principal Carer Parent caring for a child with high needs, however, carer not eligible for Carer Payment	36	97
Principal Carer caring for a child related to them where they are not a parent – through a State or Territory Court Plan	<20	<20

Exemption Category	Number of job seekers with an exemption	
	Previously on Parenting Payment Partnered	Previously on Parenting Payment Single
Principal Carer caring for a child related to them where they are not a parent – through a Family Law Court Order	<20	28
Caring Responsibilities Exemption for Temporary Visa Holders with Dependent Child under 6	<20	<20
Claiming Disability Support Pension*	<20	29
Principal Carer Parent - domestic violence	<20	<20
Principal Carer Parent providing / facilitating distance education, includes main supporter of one or more secondary school children	20	54
Expectant mother within 6 weeks of expected due date of giving birth and 6 weeks after giving birth	<20	35
Principal Carer Parent registered and active foster carer and non-Principal Carer Parent emergency and respite foster carer	72	316
Temporary incapacity due to illness, injury or disability	304	1643
Incapacity due to serious illness requiring long recovery periods, e.g. cancer, severe stroke, brain injuries, physical injuries.	<20	64
Principal Carer Parent of a large family - four or more children	352	383
Major personal crisis, e.g. homelessness, witness protection, domestic violence for non Principal Carer Parents, Indigenous job seeker undertaking cultural or sorry business	<20	105
Major personal disruption at home, e.g. fire, burglary, storm, accident	<20	<20

Exemption Category	Number of job seekers with an exemption	
	Previously on Parenting Payment Partnered	Previously on Parenting Payment Single
Other special circumstances – case by case assessment of circumstances beyond the job seeker's control	<20	22
Principal Carer Parent providing home schooling, includes main supporter of one or more secondary school children	164	364
Principal Carer Parent - Special Family Circumstances eg providing kinship or family care, care for aged or disabled adult family member or has a 6 year old child not yet started school	<20	<20
Total	1017	3281

Source: DHS Administrative Data as at 29 August 2014

**Claiming Disability Support Pension is an interim status whereby recipients do not have an Activity Test or Participation Requirement.*

Note - In order to protect the privacy of individuals, populations less than twenty are reported as "<20".