

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

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

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM1652_15

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Refers to previous Department of Employment Question No EW0317_12 which requested what are the top five reasons job seekers are exempt from mutual obligation requirements.

Question

Activity Test Exemptions

Update EW0317_12

Answer

Under social security law, exemptions from mutual obligation requirements can only be granted for a specified period.

The five most common exemption reasons as at 29 August 2014 are provided below.

Exemption category	Number of recipients with exemption	% of total exemptions (78,324)	% of total activity tested recipients (846,299)
Temporary incapacity due to illness, injury or disability	52,493	67.0%	6.2%
Principal Carer Parent of a large family - four or more children	5454	7.0%	0.6%
Major personal crisis, e.g. homelessness, witness protection, domestic violence for non Principal Carer Parents, Indigenous job seeker undertaking cultural or sorry business	4378	5.6%	0.5%
Expectant mother within 6 weeks of expected due date of giving birth and 6 weeks after giving birth	2182	2.8%	0.3%
Caring Responsibilities temporarily caring for an adult or child/ren	2094	2.7%	0.2%

Source: DHS Administrative Data as at 29 August 2014