

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM1654\_15

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

*Refers to previous Department of Employment Question No EW0546\_13 and EW1042\_12, which requested a breakdown of exemptions from activity test or participation requirements by Indigenous/non-Indigenous recipients and by gender.*

Question

Activity Test Exemptions

Update EW0546\_13, Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-13, showing number and percentages.

How many exemptions are longer than six months?

Answer

The following table provides a breakdown by exemption category of income support recipients with an exemption from the activity test or participation requirements by Indigenous/non-Indigenous recipients as at 29 August 2014.

Exemption Category	Indigenous	% of Indigenous	non-Indigenous	% of non-Indigenous	Total
<b>Temporary Incapacity</b>					
Temporary incapacity due to illness, injury or disability	3347	6.4%	49,146	93.6%	52,493
Incapacity due to serious illness requiring long recovery periods, e.g. cancer, severe stroke, brain injuries, physical injuries.	171	8.7%	1790	91.3%	1961

<b>Exemption Category</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>% of Indigenous</b>	<b>non-Indigenous</b>	<b>% of non-Indigenous</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Caring Responsibilities</b>					
Principal Carer Parent of a large family - four or more children	651	11.9%	4803	88.1%	5454
Caring Responsibilities temporarily caring for an adult or child/ren	181	8.6%	1913	91.4%	2094
Principal Carer Parent registered and active foster carer and non-Principal Carer Parent emergency and respite foster carer	242	15.5%	1317	84.5%	1559
Principal Carer Parent providing home schooling, includes main supporter of one or more secondary school children	43	2.8%	1495	97.2%	1538
Principal Carer Parent caring for a child with high needs, however, carer not eligible for Carer Payment	29	5.4%	505	94.6%	534
Principal Carer Parent providing / facilitating distance education, includes main supporter of one or more secondary school children	<20		187		193
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		86		100
Principal Carer caring for a child related to them where they are not a parent – through a Family Law Court Order	<20		87		95
Principal Carer caring for a child related to them where they are not a parent – through a State or Territory Court Plan	<20		31		34
Caring Responsibilities Exemption for Temporary Visa Holders with Dependent Child under 6	<20		<20		<20

<b>Exemption Category</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>% of Indigenous</b>	<b>non-Indigenous</b>	<b>% of non-Indigenous</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Personal circumstances</b>					
Major personal crisis, e.g. homelessness, witness protection, domestic violence for non Principal Carer Parents, Indigenous job seeker undertaking cultural or sorry business	834	19.0%	3544	81.0%	4378
Expectant mother within 6 weeks of expected due date of giving birth and 6 weeks after giving birth	260	11.9%	1922	88.1%	2182
Claiming Disability Support Pension*	179	9.4%	1728	90.6%	1907
Refugee first 13 weeks in Australia	<20	0.0%	1577	100.0%	1577
Other special circumstances – case by case assessment of circumstances beyond the job seeker’s control	300	23.9%	956	76.1%	1256
Approved overseas absence	<20		293		297
Bereavement period	63	30.9%	141	69.1%	204
Major personal disruption at home, e.g. fire, burglary, storm, accident	28	14.1%	170	85.9%	198
Principal Carer Parent - domestic violence	23	14.7%	133	85.3%	156
Community Service Order	<20		51		62
Undertaking jury duty	<20		<20		<20
Principal Carer Parent - relationship breakdown	<20		<20		<20
Refugee first 6 months in Australia undertaking preparatory Adult Migrant English Programme	<20		<20		<20
<b>Total with exemptions</b>	<b>6398</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>71926</b>	<b>91.8%</b>	<b>78324</b>

Source: DHS Administrative Data as at 29 August 2014

\*Claiming Disability Support Pension is an interim status whereby recipients do not have any Participation Requirements.

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

The following table provides a breakdown by exemption category of income support recipients with an exemption from the activity test or participation requirements by gender as at 29 August 2014.

<b>Exemption Category</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>% of Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>% of Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Temporary Incapacity</b>					
Temporary incapacity due to illness, injury or disability	25,622	48.8%	26,871	51.2%	52,493
Incapacity due to serious illness requiring long recovery periods, e.g. cancer, severe stroke, brain injuries, physical injuries.	913	46.6%	1048	53.4%	1961
<b>Caring Responsibilities</b>					
Principal Carer Parent of a large family - four or more children	5067	92.9%	387	7.1%	5454
Caring Responsibilities temporarily caring for an adult or child/ren	1241	59.3%	853	40.7%	2094
Principal Carer Parent registered and active foster carer and non-Principal Carer Parent emergency and respite foster carer	1369	87.8%	190	12.2%	1559
Principal Carer Parent providing home schooling, includes main supporter of one or more secondary school children	1412	91.8%	126	8.2%	1538
Principal Carer Parent caring for a child with high needs, however, carer not eligible for Carer Payment	504	94.4%	30	5.6%	534
Principal Carer Parent providing / facilitating distance education, includes main supporter of one or more secondary school children	173	89.6%	20	10.4%	193
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	70	70.0%	30	30.0%	100

<b>Exemption Category</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>% of Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>% of Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Principal Carer caring for a child related to them where they are not a parent – through a Family Law Court Order	94		<20		95
Principal Carer caring for a child related to them where they are not a parent – through a State or Territory Court Plan	31		<20		34
Caring Responsibilities Exemption for Temporary Visa Holders with Dependent Child under 6	<20		<20		<20
<b>Personal circumstances</b>					
Major personal crisis, e.g. homelessness, witness protection, domestic violence for non Principal Carer Parents, Indigenous job seeker undertaking cultural or sorry business	1927	44.0%	2451	56.0%	4378
Expectant mother within 6 weeks of expected due date of giving birth and 6 weeks after giving birth	2182		<20		2182
Claiming Disability Support Pension*	827	43.4%	1080	56.6%	1907
Refugee first 13 weeks in Australia	623	39.5%	954	60.5%	1577
Other special circumstances – case by case assessment of circumstances beyond the job seeker's control	548	43.6%	708	56.4%	1256
Approved overseas absence	255	85.9%	42	14.1%	297
Bereavement period	118	57.8%	86	42.2%	204
Major personal disruption at home, e.g. fire, burglary, storm, accident	113	57.1%	85	42.9%	198
Principal Carer Parent - domestic violence	146		<20		156
Community Service Order	<20		58	93.5%	62
Undertaking jury duty	<20		<20		<20
Principal Carer Parent - relationship breakdown	<20		<20		<20

<b>Exemption Category</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>% of Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>% of Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
Refugee first 6 months in Australia undertaking preparatory Adult Migrant English Programme	<20		<20		<20
<b>Total with exemptions</b>	43,269	55.2%	35,055	44.8%	78,324

Source: DHS Administrative Data as at 29 August 2014

\*Claiming Disability Support Pension is an interim status whereby recipients do not have any Participation Requirements.

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

The following table provides a breakdown of income support recipients by length of exemption.

<b>Length of exemption</b>	<b>Number of exemptions (all job seekers)</b>	<b>% of exemptions (all job seekers)</b>
Six months or more	21,217	27.1%
Less than six months	57,107	72.9%
<b>Total</b>	78,324	

Source: DHS Administrative Data as at 29 August 2014

Note: Length of exemption is determined by the earliest start date to the exemption end/review or extract date, and includes consecutive exemptions which have been granted to the same job seeker.