

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM1657_15

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

Job Seeker Compliance data

For 2013-14, provide: 1. A breakdown of smaller financial penalties and eight week no payment penalties imposed on job seekers by Centrelink 'vulnerability indicator' vulnerability indicator, ie. mental illness, homelessness, recent release from prison, limited numeracy, etc. 2. eight week no payment periods and smaller financial penalties by Centrelink area 3. eight week no payment periods and smatter financial penalties by state and territory 4. a breakdown of compliance-related appeals at all levels, with appeal outcomes, and broken down by Indigenous/non-Indigenous status.

Answer

Data contained in the following tables includes 8 week non-payment penalties that have been imposed but which may not have been fully or partly served.

1. Short financial penalties and 8 week non-payment penalties by Vulnerability Indicator for the financial year 2013-14.

Type of Vulnerability Indicator	Short Financial Penalties	8 Week NPPs
Cognitive or neurological impairment	998	164
Drug/alcohol dependent	9,818	2,160
Homelessness	11,458	2,380
Illness/injury requiring frequent treatment	3,133	551
Job seeker in transition	444	100
Nationally approved vulnerability	54	<20
Psychiatric problems or mental illness	14,241	2,207
Recent traumatic relationship breakdown	725	153
Release prison (in jail for more than 14 days)	2,152	184
Served an 8 week NPP in the previous 12 months	298	111
Significant caring responsibilities	455	83
Significant lack of literacy and language skills	4,097	1,153

Note:

- Due to some job seekers having more than one Vulnerability Indicator, penalties may be counted more than once.
2. Short financial penalties and 8 week non-payment penalties by Human Services Zones for financial year 2013-14.

Department of Human Services Zone	Short Financial Penalties	8 Week NPPs
CENTRAL NEW SOUTH WALES	19,127	4,163
CENTRAL QUEENSLAND	14,696	3,607
EASTERN VICTORIA	12,960	3,028
NORTH NEW SOUTH WALES	16,248	3,538
NORTHERN AUSTRALIA	7,358	2,598
NORTHERN QUEENSLAND	21,384	5,360
NORTHERN VICTORIA	15,291	3,499
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	16,593	3,623
SOUTH QUEENSLAND	16,686	4,519
SOUTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES	9,013	2,089
SYDNEY	20,966	4,336
TASMANIA	3,683	880
WEST VICTORIA	13,519	3,062
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	19,735	4,517
Total	207,259	48,819

3. Short financial penalties and 8 week non-payment penalties by State and Territory for financial year 2013-14.

State/Territory	Short Financial Penalties	8 Week NPPs
ACT	1,769	516
NSW	64,895	13,923
NT	6,393	2,293
QLD	52,766	13,486
SA	16,288	3,578
TAS	3,683	880
VIC	40,765	9,317
WA	20,700	4,826
Total	207,259	48,819

4. A breakdown of compliance-related appeals at all levels, with appeal outcomes, and broken down by Indigenous/non-Indigenous status.

Requested Appeals data will need to be obtained from the Department of Human Services as they are the owners of this data.