

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM1670_15

Senator Lines asked on 14 November 2014 on proof Hansard page 14

Question

Non-compliance periods under new employment services model

Senator LINES: If the legislation goes through, can people under 30, who have a nil benefit period of six months and fail to undertake certain tasks in that period, be penalised further? Are you saying that those penalties will be administered by the Department of Social Services, and not your department? Ms Leon: We may have to take the specifics of your question on notice. Obviously, we do not have the legislation with us, but, as I understand it, for each failure to comply there is a maximum of four weeks' additional waiting period. I am not aware whether there is a maximum number of non-compliance periods that can be imposed. We will have to take that on notice for you. Mr Hehir: But we won't be administering it.

Answer

The Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment (2014 Budget Measures No. 4) Bill 2014 has provisions that give the Minister for Employment authority by Legislative Instrument to determine extensions to the waiting period where a job seeker fails to enter into an employment pathway plan and/or fails to comply with particular requirements in their employment pathway plan. Waiting period extensions are not to exceed 4 weeks for each failure.

Where non-compliance is identified, it will be reported to the Department of Human Services who will determine if any penalty should be imposed on the job seeker.

The details to be included in this Legislative Instrument are currently being considered by Government and will be tabled once the primary legislation is passed.