

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000459

Senator Cameron provided in writing.

Relates to previous Department of Employment Question No EMSQ15-000231

Question

Reconnection penalties

- a) How many Reconnection penalties were applied in 2014-15? How many were imposed on job seekers with a Centrelink 'vulnerability indicator'?
- b) For each time period please list by type of vulnerability indicator, and provide a breakdown by Indigenous and non-Indigenous job seekers.

Answer

There were 99,165 reconnection failures applied between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015, of which 17,677 were applied to job seekers with a Vulnerability Indicator.

Type of Vulnerability Indicator	Reconnections applied		
	Indigenous	non-Indigenous	Total
Cognitive or neurological impairment	169	317	486
Drug/alcohol dependent	1,815	2,842	4,657
Homelessness	2,150	3,719	5,869
Illness/injury requiring frequent treatment	408	1,175	1,583
Job seeker in transition	207	218	425
Nationally approved vulnerability	<20	<20	30
Psychiatric problems or mental illness	1,482	5,979	7,461
Recent traumatic relationship breakdown	128	221	349
Release prison (in jail for more than 14 days)	810	1,078	1,888
Served an 8 week NPP in the previous 12 months	30	65	95
Significant caring responsibilities	56	102	158
Significant lack of literacy and language skills	1,475	579	2,054

Note:

1. Job seekers can have more than one Vulnerability Indicator and penalties may therefore be counted more than once. For this reason, totals will not equal the 17,677 reconnection failures applied to job seekers with a Vulnerability Indicator.
2. In order to protect the privacy of individuals, data of less than twenty are reported as '<20'.