

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000461

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Relates to previous Department of Employment Questions No EW1042_12 (*Department reference SQ12-000077*) and EM1654_15 (*Department reference SQ14-003176*)

Question

Activity Test Exemptions

Please update Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Additional Estimates 2011-12, DEEWR Question No. EW1042_12.

Answer

The following table provides a breakdown by exemption category of income support recipients of Newstart Allowance, Parenting Payment Single, Youth Allowance (other) and Special Benefit who are determined to be current (i.e. entitled to be paid) on the Department of Human Services payment system and not in receipt of a zero rate of payment, with an exemption from their mutual obligation requirements, by Indigenous/non-Indigenous recipients, as at 25 September 2015.

Exemption Category	Indigenous	% of Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	% of non-Indigenous	Total
Temporary Incapacity					
Temporary incapacity due to illness, injury or disability	4133	6.7	57213	93.3	61346
Incapacity due to serious illness requiring long recovery periods, e.g. cancer, severe stroke, brain injuries, physical injuries.	149	7.0	1968	93.0	2117
Caring Responsibilities					
Principal Carer Parent of a large family - four or more children	723	11.9	5345	88.1	6068
Caring Responsibilities temporarily caring for an adult or child/ren	237	10.6	1999	89.4	2236

Principal Carer Parent registered and active foster carer and non-Principal Carer Parent emergency and respite foster carer	279	16.8	1379	83.2	1658
Principal Carer Parent providing home schooling, includes main supporter of one or more secondary school children	43	2.6	1624	97.4	1667
Principal Carer Parent caring for a child with high needs, however, carer not eligible for Carer Payment	<20	np	np	np	369
Principal Carer Parent providing / facilitating distance education, includes main supporter of one or more secondary school children	<20	np	np	np	208
Principal Carer caring for a child related to them where they are not a parent – through a Family Law Court Order	<20	np	np	np	99
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	np	np	np	84
Principal Carer caring for a child related to them where they are not a parent – through a State or Territory Court Plan	<20	np	np	np	27
Caring Responsibilities Exemption for Temporary Visa Holders with Dependent Child under 6	0	0	<20	100	<20
Personal circumstances					
Major personal crisis, e.g. homelessness, witness protection, domestic violence for non-Principal Carer Parents, Indigenous job seeker undertaking cultural or sorry business	947	19.8	3825	80.2	4772
Claiming Disability Support Pension*	356	8.1	4061	91.9	4417

Expectant mother within 6 weeks of expected due date of giving birth and 6 weeks after giving birth	236	12.2	1695	87.8	1931
Other special circumstances – case by case assessment of circumstances beyond the job seeker’s control	271	22.4	938	77.6	1209
Refugee first 13 weeks in Australia	<20	np	np	np	1040
Approved overseas absence	<20	np	np	np	553
Principal Carer Parent - domestic violence	55	18.3	245	81.7	300
Major personal disruption at home, e.g. fire, burglary, storm, accident	30	13.8	188	86.2	218
Bereavement period	70	32.6	145	67.4	215
Community Service Order	<20	np	np	np	61
Principal Carer Parent - relationship breakdown	0	0	<20	100	<20
Undertaking jury duty	<20	np	<20	np	<20
Refugee first 6 months in Australia undertaking preparatory Adult Migrant English Programme	<20	np	np	np	1040
Declared natural disaster	0	0	0	0	0
Asylum seeker release	0	0	<20	100	<20
Total with exemptions	7593	8.4%	83070	91.6%	90663

Source: Department of Human Services administrative data (DSS Extract).

**Claiming Disability Support Pension is an interim status during assessment of the claim whereby claimants do not have mutual obligation requirements.*

Note: In order to protect individuals' privacy, identified populations <20 are reported as <20 and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are not provided (np).

The following table provides a breakdown by exemption category of income support recipients of Newstart Allowance, Parenting Payment Single, Youth Allowance (other) and Special Benefit who are determined to be current (i.e. entitled to be paid) on the Department of Human Services payment system and not in receipt of a zero rate of payment with an exemption from their mutual obligation requirements, by gender, as at 25 September 2015.

Exemption Category	Female	% of Female	Male	% of Male	Total
Temporary Incapacity					
Temporary incapacity due to illness, injury or disability	29926	48.8	31420	51.2	61346
Incapacity due to serious illness requiring long recovery periods, e.g. cancer, severe stroke, brain injuries, physical injuries.	955	45.1	1162	54.9	2117
Caring Responsibilities					
Principal Carer Parent of a large family - four or more children	5613	92.5	455	7.5	6068
Caring Responsibilities temporarily caring for an adult or child/ren	1400	62.6	836	37.4	2236
Principal Carer Parent registered and active foster carer and non-Principal Carer Parent emergency and respite foster carer	1445	87.2	213	12.8	1658
Principal Carer Parent providing home schooling, includes main supporter of one or more secondary school children	1537	92.2	130	7.8	1667
Principal Carer Parent caring for a child with high needs, however, carer not eligible for Carer Payment	341	92.4	28	7.6	369
Principal Carer Parent providing / facilitating distance education, includes main supporter of one or more secondary school children	186	89.4	22	10.6	208
Principal Carer caring for a child related to them where they are not a parent – through a Family Law Court Order	np	np	<20	np	99

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	57	67.9	27	32.1	84
Principal Carer caring for a child related to them where they are not a parent – through a State or Territory Court Plan	27	100	0	0	27
Caring Responsibilities Exemption for Temporary Visa Holders with Dependent Child under 6	<20	100	0	0	<20
Personal circumstances					
Major personal crisis, e.g. homelessness, witness protection, domestic violence for non-Principal Carer Parents, Indigenous job seeker undertaking cultural or sorry business	2191	45.9	2581	54.1	4772
Claiming Disability Support Pension*	1936	43.8	2481	56.2	4417
Expectant mother within 6 weeks of expected due date of giving birth and 6 weeks after giving birth	1931	100	0	0	1931
Other special circumstances – case by case assessment of circumstances beyond the job seeker's control	553	45.7	656	54.3	1209
Refugee first 13 weeks in Australia	436	41.9	604	58.1	1040
Approved overseas absence	506	91.5	47	8.5	553
Principal Carer Parent - domestic violence	np	np	<20	np	300
Major personal disruption at home, e.g. fire, burglary, storm, accident	133	61	85	39	218
Bereavement period	134	62.3	81	37.7	215
Community Service Order	<20	np	np	np	61
Undertaking jury duty	<20	np	<20	np	<20
Principal Carer Parent - relationship breakdown	<20	np	<20	np	<20

Refugee first 6 months in Australia undertaking preparatory Adult Migrant English Programme	<20	np	<20	np	<20
Asylum seeker release	<20	np	<20	np	<20
Total with exemptions	49741	54.9%	40922	45.1%	90663

Source: Department of Human Services administrative data (DSS Extract).

**Claiming Disability Support Pension is an interim status during assessment of the claim whereby claimants do not have mutual obligation requirements.*

Note: In order to protect individuals' privacy, identified populations <20 are reported as **<20** and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are not provided (np).

The following table provides a breakdown of income support recipients by length of exemption as at 25 September 2015.

Length of exemption	Number of exemptions (all job seekers)	% of exemptions (all job seekers)
Six months or more	20,650	22.8
Less than six months	70,013	77.2
Total	90663	100.0

Source: Department of Human Services administrative data (DSS Extract).

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.