

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000471

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Relates to previous Department of Employment Question No EM0185_14 (*Department reference SQ14-000125*)

Question

Job seeker compliance data

For 2014-15, provide:

- a. 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.
- b. eight week no payment periods and smaller financial penalties by Centrelink area
- c. eight week no payment periods and smatter financial penalties by state and territory
- d. a breakdown of compliance-related appeals at all levels, with appeal outcomes, and broken down by Indigenous/non-Indigenous status.

Answer

- a. The following table shows a breakdown of smaller financial penalties and eight week non-payment penalties (NPP) incurred by job seekers by type of Vulnerability Indicator (VI) for the period 2014-15.

Type of Vulnerability Indicator	Short Financial Penalties	8 Week NPPs
Cognitive or neurological impairment	944	47
Drug/alcohol dependent	8,193	500
Homelessness	9,717	604
Illness/injury requiring frequent treatment	2,710	176
Job seeker in transition	894	92
Nationally approved vulnerability	47	<20
Psychiatric problems or mental illness	12,466	641
Recent traumatic relationship breakdown	587	32
Released prisoner (in jail for more than 14 days)	2,925	132
Served an 8 week NPP in the previous 12 months	229	58
Significant caring responsibilities	305	<20
Significant lack of literacy and language skills	5,091	608

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

NOTE:

1. A job seeker can have more than one VI. Short Financial Penalties and 8 Week NPPs are counted once per VI type, hence totals won't match overall VI total.
2. In order to protect the privacy of individuals, populations less than twenty are reported as <20.

- b. The following table shows a breakdown of smaller financial penalties and eight week non-payment penalties incurred by job seekers by Department of Human Services Zones for the period 2014-15.

Department of Human Services Zone	Short Financial Penalties	8 Week NPPs
Central New South Wales	18,917	2,758
Central Queensland	13,282	2,563
Eastern Victoria	12,225	2,134
North New South Wales	15,245	2,470
Northern Australia	19,250	3,448
Northern Queensland	29,927	4,846
Northern Victoria	14,173	2,624
South Australia	16,970	2,677
South Queensland	15,801	2,879
Southern New South Wales	9,346	1,442
Sydney	19,161	2,876
Tasmania	3,557	602
West Victoria	14,346	2,300
Western Australia	20,621	3,247

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

- c. The following table shows a breakdown of smaller financial penalties and eight week non-payment penalties incurred by State and Territory for the period 2014-15

State/Territory	Short Financial Penalties	8 Week NPPs
ACT	1,660	251
NSW	62,301	9,536
NT	15,245	2,908
QLD	58,994	10,282
SA	16,703	2,633
TAS	3,557	603
VIC	39,720	6,862
WA	24,641	3,791
Total	222,821	36,866

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

- d. A breakdown of compliance-related appeals at all levels, with appeal outcomes, and broken down by Indigenous/non-Indigenous status is a question for the Department of Human Services