

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 19-23 October 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous
Topic: Community Development Program (CDP/RJCP) - Penalties

Senator: Senator Rachel Siewert

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Type of question: Written

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Question:

In published financial penalty data covering the period from March 2014 to March 2015, it appears that participants in the RJCP program were more likely to have a financial penalty applied than other employment services program participants, including those in Streams 3 and 4 JSA. Can the Department provide some analysis as to why this is the case?

Answer:

The Department of Employment have advised that analysis as to why the proportion of compliance reported, and penalties applied, are higher for remote job seekers within CDP than in mainstream employment services is ongoing. Contributing factors appear to include the presence of CDP providers within remote communities enabling close monitoring and reporting of non-attendance at activities as well as the higher application of penalties reported which can be attributed to higher quality reports being submitted to DHS for investigation and determination.

Increasing the level of attendance in activities, ensuring that job seekers attend appointments and reducing non-compliance is a critical element of the new Community Development Programme (CDP). The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet will also be undertaking an analysis of compliance and penalty data, as part of the scheduled evaluation of the CDP due by the end of 2016. A copy of any data or analysis will be made available to the Committee at this time.