

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: CDP/RJCP and job seeker penalties

Senator: Senator Rachel Siewert

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Type of question: 29 October 2015

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2015

Number of pages: 3

Question:

In the 2014-15 financial year, how many participation reports were submitted to DHS by CDP/RJCP providers?

How many were upheld?

Please provide a breakdown of the reasons for rejecting reports by providers.

Has the Government received any reports of participants in areas covered by CDP deciding to stop claiming Newstart or Youth Allowance because of increased participation requirements? What is the Government doing to monitor the numbers of people involved and their impact on community health and safety?

Answer:

Participation Reports submitted by RJCP/CDP providers to the Department of Human Services during the 2014-2015 financial year are detailed below:

	Applied	Rejected	Total
14/15 FY	31,203	11,331	42,534

Excludes those Participation Reports that were created by DHS with the exception of RFA (failure to attend reconnection appointment with provider) - RFA is treated as a provider initiated Participation Report.

Rejection reasons for those Participation Reports submitted by a RJCP/CDP provider during the 2014-2015 financial year.

Reasons for rejection	Number	Proportion
Requirement not supported by Employment Pathway Plan/Job Plan	1,873	16.5%
Failure incorrectly reported	1,634	14.4%
Job seeker got requirements confused	755	6.7%
Med Condition - No Evidence	746	6.6%
Bereavement - family member	695	6.1%
Med Condition - Evidence	557	4.9%
Undertaking other acceptable activity	496	4.4%
Unreasonable commuting distance	487	4.3%
Unreasonable requirement - not supported by policy	458	4.0%
Cultural diversity issues	444	3.9%
Failure occurred during recon failure period	365	3.2%
Unforeseeable transport difficulties	336	3.0%
Care for sick/frail family member	311	2.7%
Legal requirement or restriction - unable to comply	260	2.3%
Returned for update - Insufficient evidence	253	2.2%
Major personal crisis affected capacity to comply	235	2.1%
Working at time of requirement - unable to comply	228	2.0%
Inappropriate activity or program referral	179	1.6%
Child care responsibilities	155	1.4%
Notification was not given or recorded	151	1.3%
Nil entitlement for failure period	143	1.3%
Job seeker not notified properly	137	1.2%
Language/literacy/numeracy issues	77	0.7%
Disastrous event or severe weather conditions	67	0.6%
Homelessness affected capacity to comply	61	0.5%
Initiating Failure already applied	56	0.5%
Exempt from requirement at time of failure	37	0.3%
Returned for update - incorrect incident date	36	0.3%
Other pending Connection/Reconnection failure for this provider	27	0.2%
Attend job interview at time of requirement - unable to comply	22	0.2%
Other applied no show no pay failure for this date	20	0.2%
Self-served or is serving another preclusion period	<20	N/A
Connection failure revoked	<20	N/A
Unsuitable work - due to job seeker limitations	<20	N/A
Unsuitable work - other legislated reason	<20	N/A
Unsuitable work - excessive travel or no transport	<20	N/A
Job seeker did not leave job voluntarily or without good reason	<20	N/A
Not dismissed from job for misconduct	<20	N/A
Total	11,331	100.0%

The Department will undertake an assessment of the impact of participation requirements and social determinants – such as community health and safety in the scheduled evaluation of the CDP due by the end of 2016. A copy of the data or analysis will be made available to the Committee at this time.