

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous

Topic: Compliance Assessment

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Question reference number: 123

Type of question: FPA Friday 21 October 2016, page 54

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2016

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: How many people have had a comprehensive compliance assessment?

Ms Williams: I would have to take that on notice, Senator. I do not think I have that data with me at the moment, but we can certainly provide that to you.

Senator SIEWERT: Could you take that on notice and see if they are receiving their comprehensive compliance assessment?

Ms Williams: Absolutely, Senator.

Senator SIEWERT: So we have had 146,700 penalties applied—that is correct, isn't it?

Ms Williams: That is right.

Senator SIEWERT: How many people is that?

Ms Williams: I do not know that we necessarily have that data on us at present, but I am happy to also take that on notice for you.

Answer:

The Department of Human Services (DHS) must conduct a comprehensive compliance assessment (CCA) if a job seeker has been persistently non-compliant, e.g. three 'No Show No Pay' penalties applied within a six month period.

In addition, a provider may request a CCA or DHS may initiate a CCA if they believe there is an unknown issue affecting the job seeker's ability to participate.

The job seeker is assessed by a specialist DHS officer to determine to determine if they had any barriers which explain their non-compliance.

In 2015-16, 15,956 job-seekers in CDP were referred to a Comprehensive Compliance Assessment (CCAs). In total, 40,648 CCAs were submitted. Around 98.5 per cent of CCAs were finalised.

In total, 146,654 financial penalties were applied to 20,409 CDP job seekers in 2015-16. Around 86 per cent (125,742) of penalties were No Show No Pay penalties in 2015-16. Each penalty applied is equivalent to one day, one tenth of a job-seeker's fortnightly income support payment.

Job seekers have full control over whether they receive a financial penalty. If a job seeker meets their mutual obligations they will not be penalised.