

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

Outcome 3 - Employment

DEEWR Question No. EW0919_13

Senator Cash asked on 13 February 2013, Hansard page 81

Question

Exemption from workforce participation measures 2010-11 and 2011-12

Senator CASH: What was the duration for short and long term exemptions in 2011?

Answer

The following table shows median average duration as at 25 November 2011. The recorded exemption period is from the earliest start date of consecutive episodes for the current exemption to the exemption end/review date, so this includes any further periods of exemption which have been granted to the same job seeker.

Exemption category	Median duration (weeks)
Short term*	13
Long term**	52

Source: DHS Administrative data as at 25 November 2011

*Short term exemptions include those exemptions which can be granted for up to a maximum of 13 or 16 weeks for any single period. For example where a job seeker:

- is incapacitated due to illness, injury or disability of a temporary nature
- is undertaking a rehabilitation program to assist returning to work
- has temporary unexpected caring responsibilities (caring for an adult or child)
- is experiencing a major personal crisis e.g. homelessness
- is an expectant mother
- is a refugee in their first 13 weeks in Australia
- has other special circumstances – case by case circumstances beyond the job seeker's control
- is overseas
- has suffered a bereavement
- has suffered a major personal disruption at home e.g. fire, burglary
- is affected by a declared natural disaster
- is undertaking a community service order
- is undertaking jury duty
- has suffered a domestic violence/relationship breakdown
- is experiencing special family circumstances – case by case circumstances e.g. stressful separation
- is claiming Disability Support Pension (this is an interim status whereby

recipients do not have an Activity Test or participation requirement)

** Longer term exemptions include those exemptions which can be granted for either up to a maximum of 26 or 52 weeks for any single period. For example where a job seeker:

- is incapacitated due to serious illness e.g. cancer, acquired brain injury
- is a refugee in first 6 months in Australia undertaking a preparatory program (up to 26 weeks)
- is a principal carer of a large family (four or more children 6-15 years old, or 16-18 years old and the children are still completing secondary study)
- is an emergency and respite foster carer
- is a principal carer caring for a child with high needs, however, the carer is not eligible for Carer Payment
- is a principal carer providing home schooling
- is a principal carer facilitating distance education
- is a principal carer caring for a child through the result of complying with a care plan or court order