

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2005-2006 BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
30, 31 MAY and 3 JUNE 2005**

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 1: Efficient and effective labour market assistance

Output Group 1.2: Labour market programme management and delivery

Output 1.2.4: Mutual Obligation initiatives

Question Number: W166-06

Question:

Senator Wong provided in writing:

How many people were required to undertake Mutual Obligation in 2004-05? Of these, how many:

- commenced mutual obligation activities;
- did not commence mutual obligation activities and were breached;
- were breached and reinstated without penalty;
- commenced and undertook part time employment;
- commenced and undertook voluntary work;
- commenced and undertook education and training;
- commenced and undertook WfD;

Answer:

The answers provided relate only to job seekers who undertook their first period of Mutual Obligation, that is, job seekers who have been unemployed for 12 months or less. Data on job seekers in their second or subsequent period of Mutual Obligation are not readily available. Some job seekers may undertake a combination of activities as a means of satisfying their Mutual Obligation requirements.

141,671 people were required to undertake Mutual Obligation in 2004-05. This is the number of people who reached their six-month duration gateway on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance, didn't have an activity test exemption, and weren't recorded as participating in another approved activity as at that six month date.

Of these:

- **65,363** commenced mutual obligation activities;
- **3,376** did not commence mutual obligation activities and were breached;
- **1,002** were breached and reinstated without penalty (ie revoked breaches);
- **44,691** commenced and undertook part time employment;
- **409** commenced and undertook voluntary work;
- **9,602** commenced and undertook education and training; and
- **14,067** commenced and undertook WfD. (Note: this figure does not include volunteer participants, whereas the data for this question in February 2005 for QON W233-05 did include volunteer participants.)

There were also 515 job seekers doing a combination of two or more of the above activities (excluding WfD). The sum total of the activities is slightly greater than the number of job seekers who commenced Mutual Obligations. This is because the data counts all activities recorded each month, including cases where more than one activity is recorded (either concurrently or sequentially) in that same period.