

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No. EW0168_11

Senator Cormann asked on 31/05/2010, Hansard page 20.

Question

HOW MANY JOB SEEKERS HAVE HAD THEIR INCOME SUPPORT SUSPENDED

Senator CORMANN—I am not adding them all together; I understand that. I would be very keen to know how many individual people are involved. How many job seekers have had their income support suspended? Ms Parker—Financial penalties to the end of March numbered 21,189. Senator CORMANN—Again, because the minister and Ms Paul always emphasise the historical context and the importance of that, are you able to provide us that data, not now but on notice, in its historical context? Mr Griew—I can give you the data for exactly the same nine months for the previous year: the number was 16,903. Senator CORMANN—Rather than go through all of them, if you could provide us that data for two or three years. Ms Parker—Yes.

Answer

Ms Parker and Mr Griew provided data on the number of financial penalties incurred rather than the number of job seekers who incurred financial penalties.

For the period 01 July 2009 to 31 March 2010, 17 827 job seekers incurred financial penalties.

For the period 01 July 2008 to 31 March 2009, 15 222 job seekers incurred financial penalties.

For the period 01 July 2007 to 31 March 2008, 26 122 job seekers incurred financial penalties.

For the period 01 July 2006 to 31 March 2007, 16 706 job seekers incurred financial penalties.