

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW0318_12

Senator Abetz asked on 31/05/2011, Hansard page 18.

Question

Senator ABETZ: Just before you get onto the numbers, how many people—and I dare say it would be women—would report or indicate domestic violence?

Ms Paul: Sure.

Senator ABETZ: And actually volunteer it or, if I can use the term, sneak it in under major personal crisis as a result of which, not necessarily disclosing, that it is domestic violence that is the issue in their life?

Ms Paul: It would come out of an interview situation where the person on the other side is trained to be able to elicit these things; delicately, obviously. How many? We would have to take that on notice.

Senator ABETZ: Take it on notice if you can because—

Ms Paul: In fact, we have got something here which Ms Parker is putting in front of me which says that as at 25 March this year the domestic violence exemption accounted for 0.17 per cent of total exemptions.

Senator ABETZ: If that is one of the—

Ms Paul: Sorry. Of total principle carer parent exemption. Why don't we just give you the whole suite? I think that is the easiest.

Answer

Using point in time data, on 25 March 2011, 53 income support recipients were exempt from their Activity Test or participation requirements due specifically to domestic violence/relationship breakdown. This is 0.086% of the total number of exemption recipients.

A recipient may choose not to specifically disclose that they are experiencing domestic violence. These recipients may be granted an exemption from the Activity Test or participation requirements for other reasons they choose to disclose to Centrelink, such as they are experiencing a major personal crisis or are homeless. Where these other exemptions are granted it is not possible to identify the underlying reason for the exemption being applied.

The following table provides a breakdown by exemption category of income support recipients with an exemption from the activity test or participation requirements on 25 March 2011.

Exemptions from activity test or participation requirements on 25 March 2011

Exemption category	Number of recipients with exemption from activity test or participation requirements
Temporary illness, injury, disability	
Incapacitated due to illness, injury or disability of a temporary nature	38 245
Incapacitated due to serious illness e.g. cancer, acquired brain injury	1226
Undertaking a rehabilitation program to assist returning to work	<20
Caring responsibility	
Principal Carer of a large family (four or more children 6-15 years old, or 16-18 years old and still completing secondary study)	3175
Temporary unexpected caring responsibilities (caring for an adult or child)	1841
Is an emergency and respite foster carer	1338
Caring for a child with high needs, however, carer not eligible for Carer Payment	1220
Principal Carer providing home schooling	1070
Is facilitating distance education	173
Principal Carer caring for a child through the result of complying with a court order or protection or care plan	93
Receiving Special Benefits income support with a child under 6 years	<20
Personal circumstances	
Experiencing a major personal crisis e.g. homelessness	3743
Pregnant and within 6 weeks of expected due date of giving birth	2663
Refugee in their first 13 weeks in Australia or undertaking a Preparatory Program	1423
Other special circumstances – case by case circumstances beyond the job seekers control	898
Overseas	583
Special family circumstances – case by case circumstances e.g. stressful separation	344
Bereavement	184
Has suffered a major personal disruption at home e.g. fire, burglary	173
Undertaking a community service order	75
Has suffered a domestic violence/relationship breakdown	53
Undertaking jury duty	<20
*Is claiming Disability Support Pension	3053
Total With Exemption	61 590

*Claiming Disability Support Pension is an interim status whereby recipients do not have an Activity Test or participation requirement.

Source: Centrelink Administrative Data