

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Outcome 4

DEEWR Question No. EW789_10

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

Eight week non payment and financial penalties

- (a): How many eight week non payment penalties have been imposed in the first 3 months of the new system?
- (b): How many eight week non payment “waiting periods” or immediate eight week penalties have been applied?
- (c): For the new penalty system please provide the number of financial penalties that have been imposed under the “no show, no pay” regime?
- (d): Please provide details of the category of failures, whether a financial penalty was imposed and where applicable, the number of days involved?
- (e): Is there any data that could be provided about numbers of job seekers “working off” penalties that have arisen after 1 July 2009?

Answer

- (a) As at 30 September 2009, 74 eight week non payment penalties had been applied with 24 job seekers choosing to undertake a compliance activity to waive the eight week non-payment period.
- (b) As at 30 September 2009, there were 1371 Unemployment Non-Payment Periods (UNNP) applied where Centrelink determined that the job seeker had left a job voluntarily or was dismissed from a job due to misconduct, without a reasonable excuse.
- (c) As at 30 September 2009, 1619 “no show, no pay” failures had been applied.
- (d) As at 30 September 2009:
- 16 727 connection failures had been applied. There is no financial penalty for this applied failure, instead job seekers are given a requirement to attend a reconnection appointment.
 - 887 reconnection failures had been applied. A job seeker loses a day’s income support for each day they fail to attend a Reconnection Appointment. It took job seekers an average of 11 days to meet this reconnection requirement. (Noting that some job seekers fail to reconnect as they have gained employment but have not yet notified Centrelink).
 - 1619 no show, no pay failures had been applied with one day of income support lost per applied failure.
 - 74 serious failures had been applied with 24 job seekers choosing to undertake a compliance activity to waive the eight week non-payment period
- (e) As at 30 September 2009, 24 job seekers had chosen to undertake a compliance activity to waive the eight week non-payment period.