

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES – 29 MAY 2008

Human Services Portfolio



Department/Agency: Centrelink
Outcome/Output Group: Outcome 1, Output 1.1
Topic: “Breaches” (eight-week non-payment periods)

Senator: Coonan
Question reference number: HS16 & HS68
Type of question: Hansard F&PA 66 and Written
Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2008

HS16: Senator COONAN—what percentage of this is of total New Start recipients?

Senator COONAN—Do you have a breakdown about the categories of reasons for suspended welfare breaches, for example, how many fail to attend interviews?

Senator COONAN—Both categories and numbers.

HS68: Of the 33,905 non-payment periods from 1 July 2007 to 31 March 2008, please provide a breakdown of the categories of reasons for these non-payment periods?

Answer:

HS16 and HS68: The number of Newstart and Youth Allowance (job seeker) customers who incurred an eight-week non-payment period represents 3.2 per cent of all Newstart and Youth Allowance (job seeker) recipients during the period 1 July 2007 to 31 March 2008.

The following table is a breakdown of the categories of reasons for the 33,905 non-payment periods from 1 July 2007 – 31 March 2008, noting that where the non-payment period was the result of three or more Participation Failures in the last twelve months, the most recent failure reason is reported.



Reason for Participation or Serious Failure	Number
Failed to Attend Interview with Job Network Member (JNM)	8227
Voluntarily unemployed - left without good reason	7426
Failed to Comply with terms of Activity Agreement with JNM	3826
Dismissed from employment for misconduct	3077
Unsatisfactory Attendance - Work for the Dole (WFD) project	2547
Failed to attend reconnection appointment	1418
Failed to attend a Work for the Dole interview	1396
Declined suitable offer of employment	1351
Unsatisfactory attendance at WFD Activity (VLTU customers only)	1164
Failed to start job as planned	1141
Failed to attend job interview	495
Failed to attend reconnection appointment	467
Failed to commence WFD Project	402
Failed to commence WFD Activity (VLTU customers only)	258
Delayed entering into an Activity Agreement with an Employment Services Provider	219
Non-attendance at assessment including Job Capacity Assessment	130
Delayed entering into a Work for the Dole (WFD) Activity Agreement	71
Failed to attend a Centrelink review appointment	69
Failed to attend initial Mutual Obligation (MO) interview	43
Did not complete activity - reasons of misconduct or violence	27
Misconduct on WFD Project	26
Failed activity test	23
Unsatisfactory attendance at Personal Support Program placement	20
Failed to attend Mutual Obligation (MO) 8 week review interview	<20
Failed to return Job Search Diary(JSD) (for activity Agreement)	<20
Failed to meet terms of MO activity Agreement	<20
Failed to comply with Activity Agreement	<20
Failed to attend Post Activity Agreement review interview	<20
Failed to attend rehabilitation course	<20
Failed activity test - result of JSD	<20
Failed to attend participation review appointment	<20
Failure to Complete WFD Activity(VLTU customers only)	<20
Failed to reply to MO interview request	<20
Failed to attend MO 9 week review interview	<20
Not taking reasonable steps to find employment	<20
Failed to attend initial participation appointment	<20
Failure to reconnect to a Centrelink activity	<20
Failed to comply with Community Work Activity Agreement	<20

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