

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 2 MARCH 2017 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Data from twelve-month period

Question reference number: 27 (HS 27)

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 21 April 2017

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Over the most recent twelve-month period:

- a) How many job seekers have received exemptions from their mutual obligation requirements?
 - i) What percentage of this figure was for domestic violence?
- b) How many recipients of Family Tax Benefit Part A have ‘failed’ their Maintenance Action Test Exemption?
- c) How many Partial Collect Exemptions have been granted?
- d) How many Change of Assessments have been initiated by DHS-CSA and were they on the grounds of safety?

Answer:

- a) During the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016, 748,719 exemptions from Mutual Obligation Requirements were granted. This number includes job seekers who received multiple exemptions.
 - i) Of the exemptions granted, 2,335 (0.31 per cent) related to domestic violence / relationship breakdown.
- b) During the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016, the Department received 2,947 requests for an exemption from the Maintenance Action Test. Of that number, 248 recipients had their request denied.
- c) As at 24 February 2017, 447 Family Tax Benefit recipients received a partial collection exemption.
- d) During the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016, the Child Support Registrar initiated a Change of Assessment in 205 cases, five of which resulted from a Family and Domestic Violence referral.