

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Social Services Portfolio
2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 260

Topic: Stronger Participation for Jobseekers under 30

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Brown asked:

Are there any other people who may be exempt from the six-month waiting period than the five groups mentioned in the Budget Glossy?

- a. If so, what criteria will be used to determine a person's exemption status?
- b. Taking into account these exemptions, can you please indicate the number of Newstart recipients the Department projects will have their income support cut as a result of this measure?

Answer:

(a) Currently, under the Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment (2014 Budget Measures No. 2) Bill 2014, exemptions to the waiting period will be available for people who have a partial capacity to work less than 30 hours a week, parents of a Family Tax Benefit child, part time apprentices, principal carer parents, a job seeker with significant barriers to employment under the current employment services arrangements (or the Remote Jobs and Communities Programme equivalent) and Disability Employment participants.

The measure will not apply to payments under the Farm Household Support Scheme.

The Bill also seeks to provide the Minister with the power to make additional exemptions, either from the measure as a whole or from the first six month waiting period.

(b) The estimated number of persons qualified for Newstart under 30 that the department expects to be impacted by the measure (i.e. not meeting one of the exemptions under the Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment (2014 Budget Measures No. 2) Bill 2014) is as follows:

Population affected:

Total (2014-15)	Total (2015-16)	Total (2016-17)	Total (2017-18)
24,000	48,000	49,000	46,000