

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

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 349

Topic: Pregnancy and activity test exemptions and the six-months waiting period

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

- (a) How many pregnant women accessed the 6 week activity test exemption during 2012-13?
- (b) How will pregnant women be dealt with under this policy?
- (c) Will they be exempt?
- (d) If not, how will the health and financial needs of the mother and unborn foetus be met during the six month non-payment period?

Answer:

a)

	Activity test exemption due to pregnancy^{1,2}
Newstart	1,402
Parenting Payment Partnered	0
Parenting Payment Single	135
Youth Allowance (other)	816
Total	2,353

¹As at June 2013

²The Department is not able to provide statistics for the whole of 2012-13 as only point in time data is captured.

- b) Pregnant women will be subject to the *Stronger Participation Incentives for Job Seekers under 30* measure.
- c) Pregnant women will be exempt, only if they qualify for an exemption under one of the existing exemption categories, or a category specified by the Minister via legislative instrument.
- d) The Government has provided an additional \$229.6 million in job seeker support from 1 January 2015 to 20 June 2018.