

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

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 371

Topic: Stronger Participation for Jobseekers under 30

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Brown asked:

At Senate Estimates the Department stated that the maximum length of time a Newstart claimant could be on nil payment for up to 11 months after first claiming Newstart. Can you please provide cameos for the range of circumstances where this could happen?

Answer:

The maximum depends on the individual's requirement to serve waiting periods in addition to the six month waiting period (e.g. Liquid Assets Waiting Period, Moving to and Area of Lower Employment Prospects, Income Maintenance Period, Ordinary Waiting Period etc.). The total waiting period cannot be less than 1 month (the minimum waiting period) however it is not possible to determine a maximum time that an individual may spend servicing waiting periods because waiting periods can be influenced by an individual's own actions, such as failing to comply with the Activity Test.

The above explanation differs from that provided by the Department at the hearings. The Department has written to the Committee to correct the evidence provide at the hearings.