

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000186

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Relates to previous Employment Question No EMSQ15-000471

Question

Update to EMSQ15-000471 - Job seeker compliance data

Please provide updates to the following QoNs from Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015-16 using the latest available data/period: EMSQ15-000471.

Answer

- a) The following table shows a breakdown of smaller financial penalties and eight week non-payment penalties (NPP) incurred by job seekers by type of Vulnerability Indicator (VI) for the period 1 July 2015 – 30 September 2015.

Type of Vulnerability Indicator	Short Financial Penalties	8 Week NPPs
Cognitive or neurological impairment	93	<20
Drug/alcohol dependent	775	99
Homelessness	499	59
Illness/injury requiring frequent treatment	207	<20
Job seeker in transition	212	<20
Nationally approved vulnerability	<20	<20
Psychiatric problems or mental illness	602	56
Recent traumatic relationship breakdown	36	<20
Released prisoner (in jail for more than 14 days)	449	40
Served an 8 week NPP in the previous 12 months	32	38
Significant caring responsibilities	<20	<20
Significant lack of literacy and language skills	1,361	174

Source: Department of Human Services administrative data.

NOTE:

A job seeker can have more than one VI. Short Financial Penalties and 8 Week NPPs are counted once per VI type, hence totals won't match overall VI total.

In order to protect the privacy of individuals, populations less than twenty are reported as <20.

- b) The following table shows a breakdown of smaller financial penalties and eight week non-payment penalties incurred by job seekers by Department of Human Services Zone for the period 1 July 2015 – 30 September 2015.

Department of Human Services Zone	Short Financial Penalties	8 Week NPPs
Central New South Wales	1,296	316
Central Queensland	780	393
Eastern Victoria	661	289
North New South Wales	1,075	351
Northern Australia	8,008	1,152
Northern Queensland	7,557	1,082
Northern Victoria	750	293
South Australia	1,669	377
South Queensland	720	407
Southern New South Wales	298	173
Sydney	1,130	332
Tasmania	183	126
West Victoria	1,333	335
Western Australia	1,865	545

Source: Department of Human Services administrative data.

- c) The following table shows a breakdown of smaller financial penalties and eight week non-payment penalties incurred by State and Territory for the period 1 July 2015 – 30 September 2015.

State/Territory	Short Financial Penalties	8 Week NPPs
ACT	<20	29
NSW	4,012	1,181
NT	7,146	1,007
QLD	9,066	1,885
SA	1,503	363
TAS	183	126
VIC	2,683	893
WA	2,718	687

Source: Department of Human Services administrative data.

- d) A breakdown of compliance-related appeals at all levels, with appeal outcomes, and broken down by Indigenous/non-Indigenous status is a question for the Department of Human Services.