

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM0767_15

Senator Collins provided in writing.

Question

Job Services Australia requirements

The Secretary of the Department stated in May/June 2014 Senate Estimates that job seekers who don't fall under any of the exemptions (parents/carers, limited work capacity etc) who are not receiving income support for 6 months will still be expected to turn up to meetings with their JSA providers once a month, or their period of income support suspension will increase. How much will the 6 month income support suspension increase by for each JSA monthly meeting missed? - What then is the maximum period of income support suspension once these non-compliance penalties for missed JSA monthly meetings are taken into account? ie if 1 missed meeting equals 1 month extra income support suspension, this would mean 12 months in total not receiving any form of income support. - What exceptions are there to this requirement, ie will people be excused where sick, can't afford to get to meeting, have job interview etc?

Answer

If a job seeker (under 30 years old in the payment preclusion period) fails to attend a scheduled contact appointment without giving prior notice of a valid reason to their Job Services Australia provider, their payment preclusion period may be extended. The length of the extension for different failure types is yet to be determined.