

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

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

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM0772_15

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

Relocation assistance

If an individual takes up assistance under the proposed Relocation Assistance Package and is penalised for 26 weeks under penalty regime proposed (as per the Increased Employment Participation Bill 2014 currently before Parliament), are they considered to still be on Newstart? How long will it be before they can receive payments again, given that an individual can only receive payments for half of each year

Answer

Job seekers who receive relocation assistance and become unemployed due to a voluntary act or misconduct will be subject to the existing 12 week non-payment period rather than the originally proposed 26 weeks.

Job seekers serving the non-payment period will be considered to be on nil rate Newstart Allowance which means their payment may not be payable to them for up to 12 weeks.