

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous
Topic: CDP Breaches

Senator: Siewert, Rachel

Question reference number: 119

Type of question: FPA Friday 3 March 2017, page 60

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 13 April 2017

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: Ms Williams, that, in fact, people are not breached during that period so that does not account for the serious breaches and the comments that were made in the question on notice. Could you take that on notice and clarify that for me?

Ms Hefren-Webb: Will do.

Answer:

Once a Comprehensive Compliance Assessment (CCA) is triggered, no further penalties (breaches) can be applied. If the job seeker does not attend the CCA, other failures may apply.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) must conduct a CCA if a job seeker has three 'No Show No Pay' penalties applied within a six-month period, or a job seeker has three penalties for failures to attend a provider appointment, enter a job plan, or fails to accept/commence work within a six-month period.

Serious failures can then apply where DHS through the CCA determines that the job seeker has been persistently non-compliant, or where the job seeker refuses to commence or accept a suitable job offer.

A job seeker can end a serious failure period at any time (after approaching DHS and agreeing to undertake a compliance activity for the remainder of the eight-week period). DHS may also waive a serious failure in prescribed circumstances (i.e. where the job seeker is unable to complete a compliance activity and is in financial hardship).

Other outcomes to a CCA involve a referral to Employment Services Assessment, or a recommendation to the provider to amend a job seeker's Job Plan. No further penalties (breaches) are applied during this time.