

**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

**Senator:** McCarthy, Malrindirri

**Question reference number:** 96

**Type of question:** FPA Friday 3 March 2017, page 24

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

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

Senator McCARTHY: Under the CDP guidelines, Work for the Dole participants are entitled to up to six weeks off each year. Over the last year, how many participants have had the full six weeks off? Are you able to provide numbers on that?

Ms Williams: You are right, of course; there is a six-week break from activities that jobseekers are eligible for. I will have to provide those sorts of details on notice.

Senator Scullion: They are normally concurrent with an agreement in each community to actually have a closure. So, the provider closes down for a particular period. We are encouraging that. Because this is now based on each local community having a say. We obviously would like to have some consistency between a holiday and the school holidays, because the community having a holiday at a time when the schools are not having holidays has some negative outcomes in terms of school attendance. Again, this is a matter for each community and they provide us the advice when that happens.

Senator McCARTHY: If I can just get some statistics. You are welcome to take these questions on notice as well. If we can get some stats on how many participants have had the full six weeks' time off, how many have had less than four week's time off and how many have had two weeks or less off.

Ms Williams: We will provide what we can on that.

**Answer:**

Community Development Programme (CDP) job seekers are permitted to take up to six weeks 'time off' from participating in Work for the Dole activities over a 12-month period (calendar year). During this 'time off' job seekers are not exempt from meeting their mutual obligations. They are still required to fulfil other requirements in their job plan during the period which may include attending provider appointments and completing job search (as appropriate).

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) closely monitors the performance and compliance of all CDP providers on an ongoing basis.

PM&C is unable to provide figures on 'time off' from activities. To attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.