

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2004-2005 ADDITIONAL SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
17 FEBRUARY 2005**

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 1: Efficient and effective labour market assistance

Output Group 1.1: Working Age Payments

Output 1.2.1: Information, referral and support services

Question Number: W224-05

Question:

Senator Wong provided in writing:

Could we have data on type of 'flexible' or 'partial' Preparing for Work Agreements (PFWAs) granted to clients on who have exited from NSA and YA incapacitated payments for each of the last two financial years, based upon the work capacity as assessed using the bands available to Centrelink?

Answer:

All Preparing for Work Agreements (PFWAs) negotiated with job seekers either by Centrelink or by Job Network providers are tailored to individuals. The activities negotiated for inclusion in a Preparing for Work Agreement take into consideration the job seeker's individual circumstances including their education, skills, age and physical conditions, including the impact of any disability or medical condition.

There is no specific payment called NSA incapacity or YA incapacity, rather recipients of NSA or YA may be eligible for a temporary exemption from the activity test for NSA or YA due to a temporary incapacity. No specific information is available at an aggregate level which distinguishes PFWAs that have taken into account issues of disability or capacity limitations. In addition, data is not readily available to track individuals who have been granted a temporary incapacity exemption from the activity test arising from a Work Capacity Assessment and who subsequently enter into a PFWA at the expiry of that exemption.