

**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 1.2: Labour market programme management and delivery

Output 1.2.4: Mutual Obligation initiatives

Question Number: W233-05

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing:

How many people were required to undertake Mutual Obligation in 2004? Of these, how many:

- commenced mutual obligation activities;
- did not commence mutual obligation activities and were breached;
- were breached and reinstated without penalty;
- commenced and undertook part time employment;
- commenced and undertook voluntary work;
- commenced and undertook education or training;
- commenced and undertook WfD.

Answer:

The answers provided relate only to job seekers who undertook their first period of Mutual Obligation, that is, job seekers who have been unemployed for 12 months or less. Data on job seekers in their second or subsequent period of Mutual Obligation are not readily available. Some job seekers may undertake a combination of activities as a means of satisfying their Mutual Obligation requirements.

- Number of job seekers required to undertake Mutual Obligation in 2004-05: An estimate of this number is not readily available. Many job seekers will already be undertaking approved activities or will be exempt at the time they reach the six month interview point with Centrelink.

- Number of job seekers who commenced a Mutual Obligation activity in 2004-05:
25,392 (as at 31 December 2004).
- Number of job seekers who did not commence Mutual Obligation activities and were breached:
Centrelink administers breaching arrangements on behalf of DEWR. Data needed to answer this question are not readily available from within Centrelink's computer system.
- Number of job seekers who were breached and reinstated without penalty:
Centrelink administers breaching arrangements on behalf of DEWR. Data needed to answer this question are not readily available from within Centrelink's computer system.
- Number of job seekers who commenced and undertook part-time employment as a Mutual Obligation activity in 2004-05:
8,337 (as at 31 December 2004).
- Number of job seekers who commenced and undertook voluntary work (or Community Work) as a Mutual Obligation activity in 2004-05:
Approximately 826 (as at 31 December 2004). Note: Job seekers may undertake several placements as part of their participation in Community Work.
- Number of job seekers who commenced and undertook education or training as a Mutual Obligation activity in 2004-05:
95 (as at 31 December 2004).
- Number of job seekers who commenced and undertook Work for the Dole in 2004-05:
13,031 (as at 31 December 2004). Note: Some job seekers may have commenced more than once during the year.