

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

**2005-2006 ADDITIONAL SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
16 FEBRUARY 2006
EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 3: Increased workforce participation

Output Group 3.1: Working Age Policy Group

Output 3.1.1: Working Age Policy and Legislation

Question Number: W698-06

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing: Has Centrelink estimated how many people may face an immediate 8 week non payment period under the new rules, based on previous breach data, for leaving work voluntarily, being dismissed for misconduct or declining a suitable job offer? What have your investigations concluded?

Answer:

Centrelink data indicates that, in 2004-05, the number of breaches incurred for the above reasons was:

- voluntarily unemployed – 7,543
- dismissed from employment for misconduct – 3,092
- failed to start job or refused offer of employment – 2,562

It should be noted that this data is not necessarily indicative of how many people will incur a penalty for these reasons under the new compliance framework as it does not take into account any behavioural changes that may result from these new arrangements.