

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW0952_11

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Refers to previous DEEWR Question No [EW0434 10](#).

Question

EXEMPTIONS FROM WORK EXPERIENCE ACTIVITIES

At the October Estimates the Department took on notice a question regarding exemptions from a Work Experience Activity. The response received indicates that of the job seekers in the Work Experience Phase, 32% have an exemption from a Work Experience Activity requirement. Can the Department explain how almost 1 in 3 job seekers has an exemption and then explain what these job seekers are doing in the meantime?

Answer

The Department's answer to EW0434stated:

"As at 31 August 2010, 68 per cent of job seekers in the Work Experience phase had a Work Experience Activity Requirement."

This meansalmost 1 in 3 job seekers do not have a Work Experience Activity Requirement to meet; this is not an exemption.

Where the job seeker has a Work Experience Activity Requirement, it is the number of hoursto be undertaken in a range of activities to fulfill income support obligations.As indicated in the Department's previous answer, only 68 percent of job seekers had such a requirement, with the remaining 32 percent not having this requirement.

All Job seekers without a Work Experience Activity Requirement must undertake job search and have regular contact visits with their Job Services Australia provider. Job seekers who do not have a Work Experience Activity Requirement may choose to participate in work experience activities voluntarily. As at 31 December 2010, 43 percent of these job seekers were, or had, voluntarily participated in at least one work experience activity.