

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

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

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW1003_11

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

NO SHOW, NO PAY FOR JOB SEEKERS WITH A VULNERABILITY INDICATOR

Can you please provide the number of 'No Show, No Pay' penalties imposed on job seekers with a Vulnerability Indicator, a mental illness or a homelessness indicator for the period 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2010?

Answer

Between 1 July 2010 and 31 December, 2541 No Show, No Pay penalties were applied for the following reasons to job seekers with a Vulnerability Indicator:

Type of No Show, No Pay	Total	%
Failure to attend activity specified in EPP	2334	92%
Failure to attend a Job Interview	159	6%
Failure to behave appropriately in an Activity	28	1%
Failure to behave appropriately in a Job Interview	20	1%
Total	2541	100%

Of the 2541 No Show, No Pay penalties:

- 883 were applied for job seekers who through the Vulnerability Indicator were identified as having a mental illness
- 310 penalties were applied for job seekers identified through the Vulnerability Indicator as homeless (including those at risk of becoming homeless).

Note: An individual job seeker may have a Vulnerability Indicator recorded for more than one reason.

The breakdown of No Show No Pay penalties for job seekers with Vulnerability Indicators recorded for mental illness and homelessness is as follows:

Mental Illness

Type of No Show, No Pay	Total	%
Failure to attend activity specified in EPP	792	90%
Failure to attend a Job Interview	74	8%
Failure to behave appropriately in an Activity	9	1%
Failure to behave appropriately in a Job Interview	8	1%
Total	883	100%

Homelessness

Type of No Show No Pay	Total	%
Failure to attend activity specified in EPP	286	93%
Failure to attend a Job Interview	18	6%
Failure to behave appropriately in an Activity	4	1%
Failure to behave appropriately in a Job Interview	2	1%
Total	310	100%

A Vulnerability Indicator is intended to ensure that employment services providers and Centrelink are aware of a job seeker's circumstances. Employment services providers need to consider how the job seeker's vulnerability may impact their ability to undertake certain activities.

A Vulnerability Indicator does not exempt a job seeker either from the activity test or from compliance action, but it must be considered when deciding whether an activity is appropriate for the job seeker given their individual circumstances. If a Participation Report is submitted in relation to a job seeker with a Vulnerability Indicator, then Centrelink will consider, in making the compliance decision, whether the vulnerability affected the job seeker's ability to meet their participation requirement.