

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

**Outcome 4 - Employment**

**DEEWR Question No. EW1045\_12**

**Senator Siewert provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Employment Barriers**

Please provide a breakdown of the most commonly held barriers as recorded in the Employment Services Assessment (ESAt) for jobs seekers in the Streams required to undergo an assessment, broken down by total job seeker numbers and Streams. Identify the barriers, the number of job seekers, the % of Stream in the caseload, and whether the job seeker is Indigenous or not. Or all job seekers, and each Stream, indicate how many job seekers have 1, 2, 3, 4, or over 5 employment barriers.

**Answer**

With the exception of a small number of job seekers grandfathered from the now ceased Personal Support Program, Stream 4 job seekers are the only cohort required to have an Employment Services Assessment (ESAt) or Job Capacity Assessment (JCA).

The tables below provide information on ESAt/JCA recorded barriers for the Job Services Australia Stream 4 caseload as at 30 November 2011.

**Table A:**

Top 10 Barriers Identified in ESA/JCA Reports for JSA Stream 4 Caseload as at 30 November 2011:

\*Please note a job seeker can have multiple barriers and may be counted in more than one barrier type.

Barrier Description	Indigenous		Non Indigenous		Total	
	Job Seekers	Percent of Indigenous JSA Stream 4 Caseload	Job Seekers	Percent of Non-Indigenous JSA Stream 4 Caseload	Job Seekers	Percent of total JSA Stream 4 Caseload
Limited employment history	20,884	70.0%	69,347	54.3%	90,231	57.2%
Limited skills/experience	14,376	48.2%	47,418	37.1%	61,794	39.2%
Transport	14,484	48.5%	37,183	29.1%	51,667	32.8%
Psychological/psychiatric condition	4,857	16.3%	41,368	32.4%	46,225	29.3%
Job seeking skills	9,336	31.3%	34,092	26.7%	43,428	27.5%
Accommodation	8,568	28.7%	34,478	27.0%	43,046	27.3%
Formal Education	11,811	39.6%	29,044	22.7%	40,855	25.9%
Ex-offender history	9,405	31.5%	23,316	18.2%	32,721	20.8%
Mood Disorder	3,791	12.7%	25,134	19.7%	28,925	18.3%
Support network	3,094	10.4%	24,467	19.1%	27,561	17.5%

**Table B**

JSA Stream 4 Caseload by Indigenous/Non Indigenous and number of barriers identified in ESA/JCA as at 30 November 2011:

Barriers	Indigenous		Non Indigenous		Total	
	Job Seekers	Percent of Indigenous JSA Stream 4 Caseload	Job Seekers	Percent of Non-Indigenous JSA Stream 4 Caseload	Job Seekers	Percent of total JSA Stream 4 Caseload
No Barriers	553	1.9%	4,138	3.2%	4,691	3.0%
1 Barriers	53	0.2%	432	0.3%	485	0.3%
2 Barriers	260	0.9%	2,062	1.6%	2,322	1.5%
3 Barriers	1,190	4.0%	7,437	5.8%	8,627	5.5%
4 Barriers	3,090	10.4%	16,507	13.0%	19,597	12.5%
5+ Barriers	24,561	82.7%	96,819	76.0%	121,380	77.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,707</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>127,395</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>157,102</b>	<b>100.0%</b>