

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

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

Outcome 4 - Employment

DEEWR Question No. EW1130_12

Senator Bernardi asked on 15 February 2012 , Hansard page 102

Question

Income support recipients (% on Newstart)

Senator BERNARDI: Yes, Centrelink-granted exemptions for job seekers.

Ms Milliken: Overall, there were 66,966 income support recipients at the end of November who had an exemption from the activity test or participation requirements.

Senator BERNARDI: What percentage of those were on Newstart allowance?

Ms Milliken: I do not have that information by payment type; I am sorry. I could take that on notice.

Answer

As at 25 November 2011, of the 66,966 income support recipients with an exemption from activity test or participation requirements, 77 per cent were on Newstart Allowance.

Exemptions from activity test or participation requirements on 25 November 2011

Exemption category as at 25 November 2011	Total
Temporary illness, injury, disability	
Incapacitated due to illness, injury or disability of a temporary nature	42 197
Incapacitated due to serious illness e.g. cancer, acquired brain injury	1263
Caring Responsibility	
Principal Carer of a large family (four or more children 6-15 years old, or 16-18 years old and still completing secondary study)	3340
Temporary unexpected caring responsibilities (caring for an adult or child)	2195
Emergency and respite foster carer	1382
Caring for a child with high needs, however, carer not eligible for Carer Payment	1061
Principal Carer providing home schooling	1229
Is facilitating distance education	190
Principal Carer caring for a child through the result of complying with a court order or protection or care plan	97

Receiving Special Benefits income support with a child under 6 years	<20
Personal circumstances	
Experiencing a major personal crisis e.g. homelessness	4554
Pregnant and within 6 weeks of expected due date of giving birth	2403
Refugee in their first 13 weeks in Australia or undertaking a Preparatory Program	2236
Other special circumstances – case by case circumstances beyond the job seekers control	1092
Overseas	713
Special family circumstances – case by case circumstances e.g. stressful separation	276
Bereavement	218
Has suffered a major personal disruption at home e.g. fire, burglary	201
Undertaking a community service order	57
Has suffered a domestic violence/relationship breakdown	119
Undertaking jury duty	<20
*Is claiming Disability Support Pension	2124
Total With Exemption	66 966

* Claiming Disability Support Pension is an interim status whereby recipients do not have an Activity Test or participation requirement.

Source: Department of Human Services Administrative Data as at 25 November 2011