

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

**2005-2006 BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
30 ,31 MAY and 3 JUNE 2005**

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 3: Increased workforce participation

Output Group 3.1: Working age policy

Output 3.1.1: Working Age Policy and legislation

Question Number: W095-06

Question:

Senator Allison asked in writing:

Why do these policies not take into account that some will legitimately be unable to attend or contact Centrelink and experience days of non-payment and associated food shortage.

Answer:

If a job seeker legitimately misses an appointment with a provider they should immediately contact the provider to arrange another appointment. If they do, Centrelink will not be notified and the job seeker's payment will not be suspended.

If a job seeker is suspended, Centrelink will immediately attempt to contact them, rather than the job seeker having to attend or contact Centrelink. If Centrelink is unable to contact the job seeker, their lodgement day will provide a contact opportunity prior to their pay day. Those who were legitimately unable to attend the interview with their provider will have their payment restored immediately and will suffer no loss of payment or interruption to their payments.