

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

**2007-2008 BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
28 and 29 MAY 2007
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: W259-08

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing:

What is meant by the term ‘non-permanent location’ under the welfare-to-work reasonable excuse instrument? Does DEWR consider that is possible for someone to be living on the streets, but living in a ‘permanent’ location?

Answer:

As indicated in the Explanatory Statement for the instrument, the inclusion of this subsection in the reasonable excuse instrument recognises that a person’s instability of accommodation and circumstances may make it difficult for them to meet their activity test obligations and consequently provide them with a reasonable excuse for their failure to do so. The term “living on the streets” is included in the subsection to illustrate what is meant by instability of accommodation. In this context, DEWR would not expect a delegate to hold the view that a person who was living on the streets could be said to be living in a permanent location.

Estimated cost: Using the FOI calculator, to prepare this answer it has taken approximately half an hour at an estimated cost of \$10.