

**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: W261-08

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing:

What processes does DEWR follow to determine whether a person is 'homeless' under the reasonable excuse instrument? For example, does DEWR review the person's residential situation when advised of a potential participation failure?

Answer:

When determining whether or not a job seeker has committed a participation failure Centrelink is required, by DEWR policy and the legislative instrument, to consider all matters that might have affected the job seeker's ability to meet their requirements and to determine whether or not any such matter provides a reasonable excuse for the failure. This includes reviewing the job seeker's residential situation, by examining the job seeker's record for indications of unstable accommodation and by talking to the job seeker.

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