

**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: W269-08

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing:

For those ineligible for Financial Case Management does the Department conduct any surveying/research into what these individuals do to support their financial needs during the suspension period? What proportion relies on: a) Family b) Friends NGO's/welfare agencies d) Financial savings e) Sale of assets f) Other – by type?

Answer:

The Department has not conducted any detailed research on or surveying of job seekers who have incurred an eight week non-payment penalty but are ineligible for Financial Case Management.

The Department has examined the records of 100 job seekers who incurred an eight week non-payment period between 1 July and 31 October 2006 but were not eligible for Financial Case Management. This examination indicates that 41 of the 100 job seekers left payment during or immediately after their non-payment period. Of these, 36 were still off payment in June 2007 and the remaining 5 only returned to payment after three or four months, which suggests that they had found employment during their non-payment period.

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