

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Outcome/Agency 4

DEEWR Question No. EW0016_10

Senator Siewart provided in writing.

Question

Activity Test Exemptions for Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) recipients

The number of Newstart, Youth Allowance (other) recipients by activity test exemption category (incapacity, temporary exemptions for principal carers, other exemptions for principal carers), with state and national breakdowns.

Answer

Tables 1 and 2 show the number of recipients of Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) with an activity test exemption at 29 May 2009, by State and nationally.

**Table 1: Newstart Allowance recipients with an activity test exemption by State
(Centrelink Administrative Data – point in time at 29 May 2009)**

Number of claims granted	STATE									National
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Unknown	
Incapacity	423	11,239	198	7,238	3,161	1,441	9,342	2,442	32	35,516
Exemptions for principal carers	25	1,044	22	756	218	143	643	245	1	3,097
Other Exemptions	1,666	78,385	6,327	43,668	19,785	6,945	52,081	17,090	253	226,200
Total	2,114	90,668	6,547	51,662	23,164	8,529	62,066	19,777	286	264,813

**Table 2: Youth Allowance (other) recipients with an activity test exemption by State
(Centrelink Administrative Data – point in time at 29 May 2009)**

Number of claims granted	STATE									National
	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Unknown	
Incapacity	37	853	17	628	240	120	602	254	1	2,752
Exemptions for principal carers	<20	34	0	<20	<20	0	<20	<20	0	76
Other Exemptions	218	10,571	1,010	7,057	2,740	1,092	5,774	2,459	44	30,965
Total	>255	11,458	1,027	>7685	>2,980	1,212	>6,376	>2,713	45	33,793

Exemptions for principal carers are temporary. The number of exemptions reported in this category includes only the following exemption reasons: caring responsibilities and dependent children, foster care, large families, full-time student parents, home schooling or distance education and special family reasons.