

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW0317_12

Senator Abetz asked on 31/05/2011, Hansard page 18.

Question

What are the top five reasons job seekers are exempt from the activity test or participation requirements including numbers and proportions?

Answer

Recipients of participation payments who have compulsory requirements are required to comply with their Activity Test or participation requirements in order to remain qualified for income support payment.

Under social security law, exemptions from activity test or participation requirements can only be granted for a specified period.

The incidence of the five most common exemption reasons as at 25 March 2011 is outlined in the following table.

Exemption category	Number of recipients with exemption	% of total exemptions (61 590)	% of total activity tested recipients (753676)
Incapacitated due to illness, injury or disability of a temporary nature.	38 245	62.1	5.1
Experiencing a major personal crisis (e.g. homelessness, death of a family member)	3743	6.1	0.5
Principal Carer of a large family (four or more children 6-15 years old, or 16-18 years old and still completing secondary study)	3175	5.2	0.4
Pregnant and within 6 weeks of expected due date of giving birth	2663	4.3	0.4
Temporary unexpected caring responsibilities (temporarily caring for an adult or child)	1841	3.0	0.2

Source: Centrelink Administrative Data