

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

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

Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy

DEEWR Question No.EW0319_12

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

Question

When does a pregnant job seeker become exempt from their activity test or participation requirements? How many job seekers are exempt from the activity test due to this reason?

Answer

Pregnant women are exempt from the activity test from 6 weeks before the date they are expected to give birth.

In addition, from 3 months before the date they are expected to give birth, pregnant women are not required to undertake job search, although they need to satisfy the activity test by undertaking another suitable activity.

If at any other time during pregnancy a woman is unable to meet her activity test requirements because of pregnancy-related medical problems, and she has a medical certificate supporting her situation, she may apply for a temporary incapacity exemption.

As at 25 March 2011, there were 2663 individuals in receipt of participation payments with an 'expectant mother' exemption from activity test or participation requirements. (Source: Centrelink Administrative Data).