

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

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

**Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0323\_12**

**Senator Abetz asked on 31/05/2011, Hansard page 21.**

**Question**

**Job Seeker Suspension Figures**

Senator ABETZ: What is the suspension figure for—let's just pluck that month of March 2011, March 2010 and March 2009. Ms McKinnon: I do not have it. I will have to take that on notice. Senator ABETZ: If you can take that on notice for me, I would be obliged. Ms Paul: We will take it on notice and check it anyway. That is something which we understand from providers too. We hear that too. It can be frustrating and we do work closely with both providers and with Centrelink to try to maximise the probability that somebody is going to be undertaking active JobSearch. For the smaller set of exemptions, as Ms Milliken said, it is trending down. That has been my feeling overall, but we will check that.

**Answer**

Data is provided to end of May 2011 to maintain consistency with other Questions on Notice.

Job Services Australia (JSA) commenced on 1 July 2009. Job seekers were either active or inactive. Suspensions were introduced for JSA.

As at 31 May 2010, there were 816,372 job seekers on the JSA active caseload and of those, there were 154,778 job seekers suspended from provider servicing (19.0%).

As at 31 May 2011, there were 759,829 job seekers on the JSA active caseload and of those, there were 164,576 job seekers suspended (21.7%).

When Ms Milliken said that there had been a reduction in the proportion of job seekers with exemptions, she was referring to exemptions from the activity test or participation requirements for recipients of participation payments (including those in JSA, Disability Employment Services or other assistance), rather than suspensions of job seekers from JSA services.

For further information on suspensions and exemptions, refer to EW0321\_12.