

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

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

**Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0334\_12**

**Senator Abetz asked on 31/05/2011, Hansard page 34.**

**Question**

**JSA - Number Of People On Suspension For More Than 12 Months**

Senator ABETZ: Thank you. How many of those have been on suspension for more than 12 months.

**Answer**

Of job seekers who had been registered for 24 or more months and who were suspended from JSA as at 31 May 2011, 4,200 (8 per cent) had been suspended for 12 months or more.

The majority of these job seekers are suspended due to undertaking voluntary work, part time work or have been assessed as only having a partial capacity to work.

Voluntary work suspensions are limited to mature age jobseekers aged over 55. Mature aged job seekers can also use part time work to meet their participation requirements but in both cases they must remain connected to their provider, though they are suspended from servicing. They remain connected because they still have a requirement to attend arranged job interviews and accept suitable offers of employment.

Apart from mature aged, parents and jobseekers with a partial capacity to work of 15-29 hrs can meet their participation requirements by undertaking part time work. If a jobseeker with these characteristics can demonstrate that the part time work will last greater than 13 weeks, they have the opportunity to exit from JSA but can remain attached, but suspended, if they wish.

For jobseekers assessed with a partial capacity to work of 8-14 hrs, most are usually eligible for Disability Support Pension, but in some cases don't meet all the requirements or choose not to apply, so stay on Newstart or Youth Allowance. While suspended, they meet their participation requirements through quarterly interviews with Centrelink, and Centrelink will manage their Employment Pathway Plan. They can voluntarily remain with a JSA provider but as they are Centrelink managed, they are eligible for a Provider Exit if they so choose.