

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION  
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2006-2007 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING  
2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2006  
EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Outcome 3: Increased workforce participation**

**Output Group 3.1: Working age policy**

**Output 3.1.1: Working age policy and legislation**

**Question Number: W1008-07**

**Question:**

Senator Wong asked in writing:

Can DEWR advise how many times a participation failure has been recorded for parents who share care equally with their separated spouse? For such parents, please provide the number and proportion of participation failures for each sub-category of participation. Please show, both for aggregate figures and for each sub-category of participation failure, whether the person with a participation failure (a) has been determined to be the principal carer? (b) has not been determined to be the principal carer?

**Answer:**

Data on the number of parents who share care equally and who have a participation failure is not readily available from the Centrelink computer system. To produce this data, Centrelink or the Department would have to check the record of every individual job seeker who has incurred a participation failure. This would involve an unjustifiable diversion of Centrelink or departmental resources.