SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009-10

Outcome **4**

DEEWR Question No. **EW785_10**

Senator Boyce provided in writing.

Question

Non Payment Periods

Since November 2007, how many Indigenous Australians have had their Centrelink benefits suspended or terminated due to not fulfilling their mutual obligation requirements?

Answer

From November 2007 to 30 June 2009, 2 544 Indigenous job seekers had an eight week non payment period. Under the job seeker compliance system in place during that period an eight week non payment period could be applied where a job seeker had three or more participation failures applied in a twelve month period (including, but not exclusively for not fulfilling mutual obligation requirements) or where a serious failure was applied. Serious failures could be applied for refusing an offer of suitable work, being dismissed for misconduct; leaving a job voluntarily, or failure to participate in Full Time Work for the Dole.