

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Outcome/Agency **4**

DEEWR Question No. **EW786_10**

Senator Siewert asked Centrelink on 20 October 2009 in writing.

Question

Non Payment Periods

(a): *What is the total number of eight week non payment penalties, broken down by “third strike” and “serious” failures by Centrelink Area Office and Indigenous and non-Indigenous recipient status?*

(b): *Please provide a breakdown by numbers of first, second and third participation failures.*

Answer

(a) For the 2008/09 financial year, 19 406* eight week non payment penalties were applied. Of the 19 406 eight week non payment penalties, 8 850 were for a third or subsequent failure and 10 556 were for a serious failure. See Attachment A for the breakdown by Centrelink Office and Indigenous status.

b) For the 2008/09 financial year, 83 953 job seekers had one applied participation failure, 21 540 jobseekers had two applied participation failures and 8 850 jobseekers had a third applied participation failure.

***please note** – a job seeker could incur more than one eight week non payment penalty.

Attachment A

| Centrelink Area | Total | 3 rd Failure | Serious Failure |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Pacific Central | 719 | 402 | 317 |
| South West NSW | 1044 | 468 | 576 |
| Hunter | 1748 | 733 | 1,015 |
| South East Vic | 1171 | 601 | 570 |
| North Central Vic | 1333 | 661 | 672 |
| West Vic | 1363 | 701 | 662 |
| Central & Nth Qld | 360 | 146 | 214 |
| North Australia | 159 | 61 | 98 |
| South Australia | 1973 | 886 | 1,087 |
| Tasmania | 587 | 264 | 323 |
| South East Qld | 1998 | 689 | 1,309 |
| Sydney East | 1452 | 707 | 745 |
| Sydney West | 2248 | 1,152 | 1,096 |
| West Australia | 1563 | 779 | 784 |
| South West Qld | 1688 | 600 | 1,088 |
| National | 19,406 | 8,850 | 10,556 |

| Centrelink Area | Indigenous | Non Indigenous | Total |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Pacific Central | 112 | 607 | 719 |
| South West NSW | 172 | 872 | 1044 |
| Hunter | 221 | 1,527 | 1748 |
| South East Vic | 25 | 1,146 | 1171 |
| North Central Vic | 43 | 1,290 | 1333 |
| West Vic | 40 | 1,323 | 1363 |
| Central & Nth Qld | 138 | 222 | 360 |
| North Australia | 89 | 70 | 159 |
| South Australia | 168 | 1,805 | 1973 |
| Tasmania | 57 | 530 | 587 |
| South East Qld | 207 | 1,791 | 1998 |
| Sydney East | 71 | 1,381 | 1452 |
| Sydney West | 154 | 2,094 | 2248 |
| West Australia | 357 | 1,206 | 1563 |
| South West Qld | 221 | 1,467 | 1688 |
| National | 2,076 | 17,330 | 19,406 |