

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

**Outcome 3 - Employment**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0550\_13**

**Senator Siewert provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Job seeker compliance changes**

How many job seekers had a financial loss as a result of the 1 July 2011 job seeker compliance changes? Provide a breakdown by: • Indigenous/non-Indigenous job seekers • Job seekers with a vulnerability indicator • Indigenous/non-Indigenous job seekers with a vulnerability indicator • Indigenous/non-Indigenous job seekers with a vulnerability indicator by type of vulnerability indicator.

**Answer**

The following figures are for job seekers who incurred a financial penalty for a failure that would not have attracted a financial penalty prior to 1 July 2011. That is:

- where the job seeker had a reasonable excuse for their failure to attend an appointment or activity but failed to give prior notice of their inability to attend (where it would have been reasonable for them to do so); and
- where a job seeker incurred a failure for missing a reconnection appointment that was not booked as a direct result of a prior connection failure.

These figures do not include job seekers whose payment was suspended as a result of non-attendance at an activity or appointment. This is because suspension of payment does not result in financial loss. When a payment is suspended the payment is held up until the job seeker agrees to comply with their requirements, at which point it is restored with full back pay.

All data in the tables below is for the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012.

The following table includes the number of job seekers who incurred a financial penalty as a result of the 1 July 2011 compliance changes broken down by Indigenous and non-Indigenous job seekers and by job seekers with and without a vulnerability indicator.

	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>Non Indigenous</b>	<b>Total</b>
No Vulnerability Indicator	4,147	13,365	17,512
Vulnerability Indicator	1,626	3,659	5,285
Total	5,773	17,024	22,797

The following table includes the number of Indigenous and non-Indigenous job seekers with a vulnerability indicator (VI) who have incurred a financial loss as a result of the 1 July 2011 compliance changes by type of vulnerability indicator.

Note that job seekers can have more than one VI. In the table below, job seekers with multiple VIs will therefore be included in multiple categories. For this reason, the columns will not add up to the total number of job seekers with VIs given in the previous table.

<b>Type of VI</b>	<b>Indigenous</b>	<b>Non Indigenous</b>	<b>Total</b>
Psychiatric problems or mental illness	411	1,913	2,324
Illness/injury requiring frequent treatment	120	487	607
Drug/alcohol dependent	563	992	1,555
Significant lack of literacy and language skills	478	207	685
Homelessness	428	884	1,312
Cognitive or neurological impairment	43	108	151
Job seeker in transition	19	14	33
Released prisoner (in jail for more than 14 days)	109	135	244
Recent traumatic relationship breakdown	61	111	172
Significant caring responsibilities	29	47	76
Served an 8 week NPP in the previous 12 months	14	35	49
Nationally approved vulnerability.	2	9	11