

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Department of Human Services

Additional Estimates 2007-08 – February 2008



Question: HS22

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Centrelink – Breaches

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written

SENATOR SIEWERT asked on 22/02/2008:

(a) How many people have received 8 week non-payment periods since 1st July 2007? How many by area breakdown? How many by payment breakdown? How many by reason breakdown?

(b) How many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have received 8 week non-payment periods and how many by area breakdown?

Answer:

(a) For the period 1 July 2007 to 29 February 2008, 27,090 job seekers have received an eight-week non-payment period. The breakdowns are shown in the tables below.

Eight-week non-payment periods by Area – 1 July 2007 to 29 February 2008

| Area | Number of Job Seekers |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Pacific Central | 1,079 |
| South West NSW | 1,324 |
| Hunter | 2,489 |
| South East Victoria | 1,262 |
| North Central Victoria | 2,113 |
| West Victoria | 1,677 |
| Central North Queensland | 1,001 |
| North Australia | 401 |
| South Australia | 2,447 |
| Tasmania | 902 |
| South & East Queensland | 2,313 |
| Sydney East | 1,639 |
| Sydney West | 3,719 |
| West Australia | 1,960 |
| South & West Queensland | 2,222 |
| No Area * | 542 |

* No Area – refers to those job seekers who were not attributed to an Area.

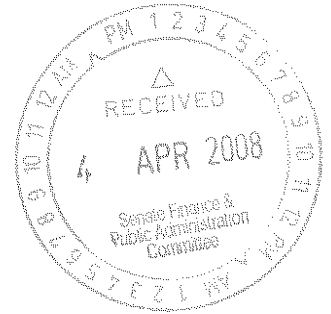
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Eight-week non-payment periods by payment type – 1 July 2007 to 29 February 2008

| Payment Type | Number of Job Seekers |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Newstart Allowance | 20,087 |
| Parenting Payment Partnered | 53 |
| Parenting Payment Single | 172 |
| Special Benefit | < 20 |
| Youth Allowance | 6,084 |
| Not allocated * | 686 |

* Not allocated – job seekers who have incurred a Serious Failure, lodged a new claim, and have not been granted a payment at the time of data extraction.

NB: Figures below 20 are not reported to protect customer privacy.

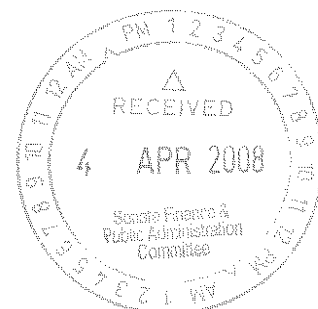
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Eight-week non-payment periods by reason – 1 July 2007 to 29 February 2008

| Participation or Serious Failure Reason | Number of Job Seekers |
|--|-----------------------|
| Voluntarily unemployed - left without good reason | 6,435 |
| Failed to attend interview with Job Network Member | 6,339 |
| Failed to comply with terms of Activity Agreement with Job Network Member | 2,922 |
| Dismissed from employment for misconduct | 2,663 |
| Unsatisfactory attendance - Work for the Dole Project | 1,906 |
| Failed to attend reconnection appointment | 1,100 |
| Declined suitable offer of employment | 1,098 |
| Failed to attend a Work for the Dole interview | 1,053 |
| Failed to start job as planned | 920 |
| Unsatisfactory attendance at Work for the Dole Activity (Very Long Term Unemployed customers only) | 884 |
| Failed to attend job interview | 377 |
| Failed to attend reconnection appointment | 358 |
| Failed to commence Work for the Dole Project | 300 |
| Failed to commence Work for the Dole Activity (Very Long Term Unemployed customers only) | 183 |
| Delayed entering into an Activity Agreement with an Employment Services Provider | 163 |
| Non-attendance at assessment, including Job Capacity Assessment | 105 |
| Failed to attend a Centrelink review appointment | 61 |
| Delayed entering into a Work for the Dole Activity Agreement | 51 |
| Failed to attend initial Mutual Obligation interview | 36 |
| Failed activity test | 22 |
| Misconduct on Work for the Dole Project | < 20 |
| Did not complete activity - reasons of misconduct or violence | < 20 |
| Failed to attend Mutual Obligation eight-week review interview | < 20 |
| Unsatisfactory attendance at Personal Support Program placement | < 20 |
| Failed to attend rehabilitation course | < 20 |
| Failed to comply with Activity Agreement | < 20 |
| Failed to attend post Activity Agreement review interview | < 20 |
| Failed to return Job Search Diary (for Activity Agreement) | < 20 |
| Failed to meet terms of Mutual Obligation Activity Agreement | < 20 |
| Failed to attend participation review appointment | < 20 |
| Failed activity test - result of Job Search Diary | < 20 |
| Failed to reply to Mutual Obligation interview request | < 20 |
| Failed to attend Mutual Obligation nine-week review interview | < 20 |
| Failure to complete Work for the Dole Activity (Very Long Term Unemployed customers only) | < 20 |
| Failed to attend initial participation appointment | < 20 |
| Failure to reconnect to a Centrelink activity | < 20 |
| Failed to comply with community work Activity Agreement | < 20 |
| Not taking reasonable steps to find employment | < 20 |

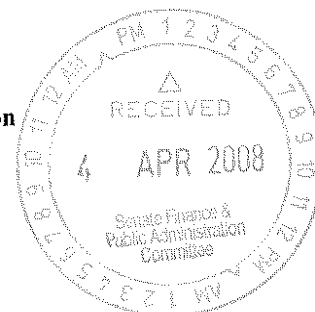
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(b) For the period 1 July 2007 to 29 February 2008, 3,288 job seekers who identify as Indigenous have received an eight-week non-payment period. The Area breakdown is shown in the table below.

Indigenous eight-week non-payment periods by Area – 1 July 2007 to 29 February 2008

| Area | Number of Job Seekers |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Pacific Central | 149 |
| South West NSW | 228 |
| Hunter | 283 |
| South East Victoria | < 20 |
| North Central Victoria | 65 |
| West Victoria | 54 |
| Central North Queensland | 469 |
| North Australia | 271 |
| South Australia | 255 |
| Tasmania | 69 |
| South & East Queensland | 256 |
| Sydney East | 76 |
| Sydney West | 246 |
| West Australia | 568 |
| South & West Queensland | 266 |
| No Area * | 21 |

* No Area – refers to those job seekers who were not attributed to an Area.

NB: Figures below 20 are not reported to protect customer privacy.