

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 24 FEBRUARY 2009

Human Services Portfolio

Department/Agency: Centrelink
Outcome/Output Group: Outcome 1/Output Group 1.1
Topic: Activity Exemptions

Senator: Siewert
Question reference number: HS23
Type of question: Written
Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 April 2009

Question:

HS23a: How many domestic violence activity exemptions have been issued by Centrelink in the period from July 1 2006 to the present.

HS23b: What was the average duration of exemptions.

HS23c: How many requests for domestic violence exemptions have been refused over the period and what have been the grounds for refusal. (Could this data be provided by State and Indigenous identity).

Answer:

HS23a: From 1 July 2006 to 27 February 2009, the total number of exemptions granted to principal carers due to domestic violence or stress as a result of a relationship breakdown is 1,097.

Other activity tested customers who are not principal carers may be granted an exemption related to the same circumstances, but this will be recorded under a general code of 'major personal crisis', which is used to cover a broad range of situations.

HS23b: From 1 July 2006 to 27 February 2009, the average duration of all domestic violence exemptions was 9.05 weeks.

HS23c: It is not possible for Centrelink to provide data about how many exemptions were not granted, as there is no 'rejection of exemption' code that may be counted for statistical purposes.

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