

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Human Services and agencies

Budget Estimates 2005-2006, 26 May 2005

Question: HS21

Outcome 1, Output Group 1.1

Topic: Centrelink - Breach data – 1st, 2nd & 3rd breaches imposed in 2004 on Newstart Allowance recipients in receipt of payment more than three years

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: F&PA 71 26/5/05

SENATOR ALLISON asked on 26 May 2005:

Senator ALLISON—My first question probably needs to be taken on notice, and I apologise if it has been asked before. Tell me if anything I ask has already been dealt with. How many first, second and third breaches were imposed in 2004 on newstart allowance recipients who had been in receipt of payments for more than three years? Is it possible to distinguish between administrative and activity breaches and to specify how many eight-week payment suspensions were imposed?

Mr Whalan—We do not have that detail here. We will take that on notice and will try and provide you with as much of that as we are able.

Answer:

This information relates to programs that are the responsibility of the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

The number of maintained breaches in the 2004 calendar year for customers who have been in receipt of Newstart Allowance for three or more years, by breach type and penalty rate is listed in the table below.

| Breach Type | Penalty Rate | Number |
|-----------------------|--|---------------|
| Activity Test | 18% (1 st) | 3,134 |
| | 24% (2 nd) | 1,084 |
| | 8 week non payment period (3 rd and subsequent) | 260 |
| Administrative | 13 weeks at 16% | 3,779 |
| | 2 week non payment period (2 nd and subsequent) | 58 |

Please note: Maintained breaches are breaches imposed and not subsequently revoked as a result of the appeal and review process.