

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Public Administration Portfolio

Department of Human Services and agencies

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2006-2007, 31 October 2006

Question: HS62

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Centrelink: Compliance

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: written

SENATOR WONG asked on 31/10/06:

1. Newstart Data - How many participation reports have been provided to Centrelink for people receiving Newstart allowance on the basis of being a (a) person with a partial capacity to work? (b) principal carer?
2. Newstart Data - For how many of these participation reports did Centrelink determine that (a) The person had a reasonable excuse for not meeting participation requirements? (b) That the offer of employment fell within the definition of unsuitable work?

Answer:

- 1 (a) For the period 1 July 2006 to 30 September 2006, 260 Participation Reports were processed by Centrelink for people receiving Newstart allowance on the basis of being a person with a partial capacity to work.¹
- (b) For the period 1 July 2006 to 30 September 2006, 160 Participation Reports were processed by Centrelink for people receiving Newstart allowance on the basis of being a principal carer.
- 2.(a) For the period 1 July 2006 to 30 September 2006, 31 Principal Carers and 126 persons with a Partial Capacity to work had a reasonable excuse for not meeting their participation requirements.
- (b) For the period 1 July 2006 to 30 September 2006 <20 persons with a Partial Capacity to work had a Participation Report rejected as the offer of employment fell within the definition of unsuitable work*.

Notes:

¹ Centrelink has provided a response to the question how many Participation Reports had been processed by Centrelink. It is unable to provide details of how many participation reports have been provided as this would be a question for the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

In order to protect the privacy of customers, customer numbers less than 20 will be masked and only show the value '<20'.

* This data should be treated as indicative as it may represent an undercount of cases as a customer may have multiple "reasonable excuses" for not accepting a job offer i.e. they had a medical exemption or the job was outside of reasonable commuting distance, however the Centrelink system only allows one reason to be recorded.

Source W2W report R50TWKD 29 Sept 2006.

To prepare this answer it has taken approximately 5 hours and 15 minutes at an estimated cost of \$338.