

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 21 OCTOBER 2008

Human Services Portfolio



Department/Agency: Centrelink

Outcome/Output Group: Outcome 1/Output 1.1

Topic: Homelessness

Senator: Ludlam

Question reference number: HS19a-c

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 5 December 2008

Question:

HS19a: On how many occasions has homelessness been accepted as a reason for failing to meet the requirements of activity agreements during the 2007-08 financial year?

HS19b: How many non-payment periods have been revoked at appeal because of homelessness of the jobseeker during the 2007-08 financial year? (This has been re-worded following clarification from Minister's office).

HS19c: How many instances have there been of the Homeless Vulnerability Indicator being raised for jobseekers during the 2007-08 financial year?

Answer:

HS19a: In the 2007-08 financial year, 696 Participation Failures relating to "failing to meet the requirements of *Activity Agreements*" were not applied where the job seeker also had a current Vulnerability Indicator with the category of "homelessness beyond the control of the job seeker".

It should be noted that, in these cases, the presence of this Vulnerability Indicator may not have been the sole determinant in Centrelink's decision to reject the Participation Failures. In addition, homelessness may be taken into account even where a Vulnerability Indicator had not yet been recorded. However, Centrelink does not collect management information on this.

HS19b: Centrelink does not collect management information on the reasons why a failure has been revoked following a review of decision. To obtain this information would be highly resource intensive and we cannot justify the level of expenditure that would be required to obtain it.

HS19c: An individual jobseeker may have multiple Vulnerability Indicators recorded concurrently or across the financial year.

From 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, the homelessness category of the Vulnerability Indicator was recorded on 12,553 occasions for 8,299 job seekers.

Number of pages: 1