

Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

FAMILIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

Northern Territory National Emergency Response Bill 2007 and Related Bills

10 August 2007

Topic: Welfare to Work

Question No: 52

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

How many Aboriginal people on income support payments have been given an 8 week no-payment penalty (breached) since the introduction of Welfare to Work in July 2006? How does this compare with the previous final year?

Answer:

Across Australia, 1,644 people on income support payments who identified as Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders were given an 8 week non-payment penalty during financial year 2006-07.

This compares with 16,265 people on income support payments who identified as Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders who received a financial penalty during financial year 2005-06, ranging from 16 per cent rate reductions for 13 weeks through to 8 week non-payment periods (there were 658 eight week non-payment periods).