

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 248

Topic: Social Security Appeals Tribunal (SSAT)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

The SSAT hearings are increasingly moving to single panel hearings. What per cent and how many SSAT hearings have been done by single member panels and two member panels? Please provide a state by state breakdown of those figures.

Answer:

The SSAT commenced its transition to constitution by a single member on 1 January 2011. In 2011-2012, the SSAT was constituted by a single member for:

- 85% or 6,274 applications for review of Centrelink decisions. For the remaining 15% or 1,129 applications, the SSAT was constituted by two members (or very rarely three members). In some cases, the additional member was present for mentoring or performance evaluation purposes;
- 91% or 63 applications for review of paid parental leave decisions. For the remaining 9% or 6 applications, the SSAT was constituted by two members;
- 47% or 660 applications for review of child support decisions. For the remaining 53% or 749 applications, the SSAT was constituted by two members (or very rarely by three members). In some cases, the additional member was present for member mentoring or performance evaluation purposes.

The SSAT does not have a state by state breakdown of those figures for 2011-2012, and would incur the costs of a contractor to obtain that data from the SSAT's case management system.