

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 302

Topic: Income support for Carers

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

In relation to the Wife Pension, please provide:

- o Number of recipients of the Wife Pension
- o Administered outlays of the Wife Pension
- o Percentage and number of recipients on part rate of the Wife Pension due to the means test
- o Ratio of current number of Wife Pension recipients to the number of Wife Pension Recipients at 1 July 1995.
- o Can you please provide the percentage and number of recipients reporting employment income?
- o Can you confirm whether the department has done any work on possible mechanisms for reducing the future costs associated with this payment?
- o Has the department done any work relating to possible changes to any aspect of the current settings for the Wife Pension (DSP)?

Answer:

- o As at September 2013 there were 8,533 Wife Pension (DSP) recipients.
- o In 2012-13 administered outlays on Wife Pension (DSP) were \$130.51 million.
- o As at September 2013 there were 2,576 (30.2 per cent) Wife Pension (DSP) recipients on part rate due to the means test.
- o As at September 2013 the ratio of current Wife Pension (DSP) recipients to the number of Wife Pension (DSP) recipients at 1 July 1995 was 8,533/121,839 (7.0 per cent).
- o As at September 2013 there were 2,001 (23.5 per cent) Wife Pension (DSP) recipients with income from employment.
- o The Department, as part of its ongoing business practice, monitors and reviews a range of factors in relation to income support payments including costs and policy settings.