

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

Outcome Number: 9

Question No: 313

Topic: Income Support for people with disability

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

1. Can you provide the latest data on overall costs associated with the Sickness Allowance?
2. Can you confirm whether the Department has done any work on possible mechanisms for reducing the future costs associated with this payment?
3. Has the Department done any work relating to possible changes to any aspect of the current settings for the Sickness Allowance?

Answer:

1. In the 2012-13 financial year, Sickness Allowance expenditure was \$98.658 million (*DEEWR Annual Report 2013/14*).
2. The Department monitors all income support payments and regularly reviews their cost and effectiveness.
3. The Government is currently looking at Australia's system of social security to ensure that there is a balance between the incentive to work and the well-being of the individual.