

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 22 OCTOBER 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Amount of Overpayments

Question reference number: HS 201

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written

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Question:

Provide details of the number (and percentage) of income support recipients with Centrelink overpayments for 2014-15:

- a) in total;
- b) by payment type;
- c) by payment type and Indigenous/non Indigenous status; and
- d) by state and territory.

Answer:

- a) The following table provides the number and percentage of income support recipients with Centrelink overpayments for 2014-15.

| Income support recipients with Centrelink overpayments for 2014-15 | |
|---|--|
| Number of Customers with an Overpayment | Percentage of Customers with an Overpayment |
| 906,657 | 13.22% |

Note: The percentages have been rounded to two decimal points. Using these rounded figures may result in discrepancies in individual calculations of the number of customers with an overpayment.

- b) The following table provides the number and percentage of income support recipients with Centrelink overpayments for 2014-15, broken down by payment type.

| Payment Type | Total number of customers with an overpayment | Percent of Total Customers with an Overpayment (%) |
|---------------------|--|---|
| ABSTUDY | 5,962 | 11.71% |
| Age Pension | 88,026 | 3.41% |
| Austudy | 19,372 | 22.89% |
| Carers | 35,998 | 12.64% |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------|
| Disability Support | 58,323 | 6.8% |
| Family Tax Benefit | 512,854 | 28.37% |
| Newstart Allowance | 249,015 | 21.45% |
| Other | 26,887 | 15.9% |
| Parenting Payment Partnered | 50,717 | 32.69% |
| Parenting Payment Single | 97,489 | 30.27% |
| Youth Allowance | 87,683 | 16.27% |

Note 1: While each customer is only counted once within each payment type, some customers receive more than one payment. As a result, the combined number of customers in this table is more than the total number of individual customers with an overpayment (Answer (a)).

Note 2: The percentages have been rounded to two decimal points. Using these rounded figures may result in discrepancies in individual calculations of the number of customers with an overpayment.

- c) The following table provides the number and percentage of income support recipients with Centrelink overpayments for 2014-15, by Payment type and Indigenous/Non-Indigenous status.

| Payment type | Number of Indigenous customers with an overpayment | % of Indigenous customers with an overpayment | Number of Non-Indigenous customer with an overpayment | % of Non-Indigenous customer with an overpayment |
|-----------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| ABSTUDY | 5,962 | 11.96% | 0 | 0.00% |
| Age Pension | 1,024 | 5.81% | 87,002 | 3.39% |
| Austudy | 232 | 41.58% | 19,140 | 22.76% |
| Carers | 3,374 | 22.64% | 32,624 | 12.09% |
| Disability Support Pension | 5,266 | 10.58% | 53,057 | 6.57% |
| Family Tax Benefit | 31,411 | 33.06% | 481,443 | 28.11% |
| Newstart Allowance | 26,255 | 27.37% | 222,760 | 20.91% |
| Parenting Payment Partnered | 5,228 | 39.47% | 45,489 | 32.06% |
| Parenting Payment Single | 12,700 | 30.94% | 84,789 | 30.17% |
| Youth Allowance | 8,777 | 25.8% | 78,906 | 15.62% |
| Other | 2,204 | 24.74% | 24,683 | 15.41% |

Note 1: While each customer is only counted once within each payment type, some customers have overpayments in more than one payment type. As a result, the combined number of customers in this table is more than the total number of individual customers with an overpayment (Answer (a)).

Note 2: The percentages have been rounded to two decimal points. Using these rounded figures may result in discrepancies in individual calculations of the number of customers with an overpayment.

Note 3: While ABSTUDY customers are required to make a declaration of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent as part of the claim process, coding of the Indigenous Indicator on a customer record is a manual process. If this coding is omitted the ABSTUDY customer may not have an Indigenous Indicator coded on their record.

- d) The following table provides the number and percentage of income support recipients with Centrelink overpayments for 2014-15, broken down by state and territory.

| State/Territory | Number and percentage of income support recipients with Centrelink overpayments for 2014-15 | |
|-----------------|---|---|
| | Number of Customers with Overpayment | Percentage of current customers with an Overpayment (%) |
| ACT | 10,326 | 13.78% |
| NSW | 275,559 | 12.59% |
| NT | 13,360 | 20.4% |
| QLD | 213,141 | 15.21% |
| SA | 67,019 | 11.88% |
| TAS | 21,209 | 11.05% |
| VIC | 216,704 | 12.64% |
| WA | 87,877 | 14.66% |
| Other* | 1,462 | 2.57% |
| Total | 906,657 | 13.22% |

* Other - where the address is unknown or overseas address

Note: The percentages have been rounded to 2 decimal points. Using these rounded figures may result in discrepancies in individual calculations of the number of customers with an overpayment.