

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

Department of Human Services

Topic: Income Maintenance Periods

Question reference number: HS 210

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 23 December 2015

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) In 2014-15, how many and what proportion of Income Maintenance Periods (IMPs) were of a length of:
 - 1) Less than a month
 - 2) Less than 3 months
 - 3) 3-6 months
 - 4) 6-9 months
 - 5) 12 months
 - 6) 24 months
 - 7) 2-5 years
 - 8) 6-10 years
 - 9) 10 – 20 years
 - 10) Over 20 years.
- b) For 2014-15:
 - 1) Provide a breakdown on the numbers of each payment types that were the subject of an IMP (including Special Benefit).
 - 2) How many IMP's were appealed at each stage of appeal, and what was the outcome of the appeal?
 - 3) How many Income Maintenance Periods (IMP) were imposed.
 - 4) Of the Income Maintenance Periods applied, detail the average IMP imposed.
 - 5) Provide data on the range of IMP's applied in the period.
- c) As of October 2015, how many IMP's are being served in total? Provide details of the range of IMP's currently being served.

Answer:

- a) The preparation of a response to this question would involve a substantial and unreasonable diversion of resources.

b) For 2014-15:

- 1) The preparation of a response to this question would involve a substantial and unreasonable diversion of resources.
- 2) Details of Income Maintenance Periods appealed at each stage of appeal and the outcome of the appeal is provided below:

DHS Review Officer:	
Appeal Decision Classification	Total
Affirmed	372
Dismissed/No Jurisdiction	2
Set Aside	126
Varied	144
Withdrawn	200
Awaiting Decision	1
Grand Total	845

SSAT/AAT *:	Jurisdiction	
	Custom	
Appeal Decision Classification	SSAT	AAT (Customer)
Affirmed	58	1
Dismissed/No Jurisdiction	1	1
Set Aside	12	0
Varied	4	0
Withdrawn	9	4
Settled/Decision by Consent	0	3
Awaiting Decision	1	2
Grand Total	85	11
* These appeals were received by SSAT/AAT in 2014-15; some of these appeals may have been decided by DHS prior to 2014-15.		

- 3) The number of Income Maintenance Periods applied in the 2014-15 financial year was 54,160.
 - 4) The average Income Maintenance Period imposed was 40 days.
 - 5) The preparation of a response to this question would involve a substantial and unreasonable diversion of resources.
- c) As at 30 October 2015 there were 4,773 Income Maintenance Periods being served. The preparation of a response to provide details of the range of IMPs currently being served would involve a substantial and unreasonable diversion of resources.