

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 3 - Employment

DEEWR Question No. EW0156_14

Senator Cash asked on 4 June 2013, Hansard page 60

Question

Sickness Allowance

Senator CASH: Turning to sickness allowance: how many persons received the payment in 2012-13, and, again, can you provide a breakdown of this by adjusted taxable income bracket? Mr Emerson: I will be able to answer your first question. The second question, unfortunately, I will need to take on notice. So the number of recipients of sickness allowance, as at March 2013, was 7,691. Senator CASH: How many of these persons also received another income support payment, and can you provide a breakdown by type of payment? Mr Emerson: The eligibility for sickness allowance is that they would not have received another income support payment at the same time. So this is not a supplementary allowance. Senator CASH: So this is an eligibility criterion and basically if you are receiving something else— Mr Emerson: That is right. Senator CASH: So zero. How many persons received the sickness allowance in 2012-13, again, while on temporary absence from Australia not exceeding 13 weeks and who are newly arrived migrants? Can you take that on notice? Ms Taylor: On notice, Senator.

Answer

The adjusted taxable income bracket is not applicable to Sickness Allowance recipients. Recipients of Sickness Allowance are subject to the same income test as Newstart Allowance.

In the 2012–13 financial year to 31 March 2013, there was less than 20 newly arrived migrants on Sickness Allowance who were paid while on temporary overseas absence (i.e. those recipients who are not Australian Citizens and have less than 104 weeks Australian qualifying residence).

Note: In order to protect the privacy of individuals, populations less than 20 are reported as 'less than 20'.