

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2013-2014

Outcome 3 - Employment

DEEWR Question No. EW0157_14

Senator Cash asked on 4 June 2013, Hansard page 60

Question

Utilities allowance

Senator CASH: Utilities allowance: how many persons received the utilities allowance in 2012-13 and are you able to provide a breakdown of those recipients by income support payment? Mr Emerson: Again, breakdown by income support payment we will need to take on notice because it is across agencies for a range of payments. Senator CASH: So you will take it on notice to get the information; okay. Mr Emerson: We need to do so to get a fulsome answer. But I can say that the total number of people on utilities allowance as at March 2013 is 42,374. I can actually break it down to partner allowance and widow allowance. Senator CASH: Yes, please. Mr Emerson: Partner allowance was 13,396 and widow allowance was 28,978. There are other base payments that this payment is a supplement to. Senator CASH: And you will be able to get that on notice? Mr Brown: The utilities allowance was rolled into the pension supplement under the pension reforms. That is why only DEEWR payments are left with the utilities allowance. Mr Emerson: Except for DSP under 21s.

Answer

Utilities Allowance is paid to income support recipients of Partner Allowance or Widow Allowance, who are under Age Pension age and to Disability Support Pension under 21 years of age who have no dependent children.

Recipients of Utilities Allowance in the 2012-2013 Financial Year to March 2013 by Income Support Payment Type	Utilities Allowance
Disability Support Pension	30,183
Partner Allowance	13,396
Widow Allowance	28,978
Other	354
Total individual recipients	72,833

Data Descriptions

Includes the following recipients:

Recipients who received the reported payment component for the current financial year to March 2013 in the Centrelink payment system.

Total count is a unique count of recipients for each component type i.e. one count per recipient per component type.

Total count for each payment type is a unique count of recipients for each payment type and component type i.e. one count per recipient per payment type per component type

Recipients may have received more than one component type and been paid under more than one payment type in the reporting period.

Note: Counts only include payment components where entitlement paid through the Centrelink payment system (ISIS)

Source: Department of Human Services administrative data (DEEWR extract).