

Department of Social Services

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

**Inquiry into the Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment
(Technical Changes No. 2) Bill 2025**

Public Hearing – 3 October 2025

Topic: Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee inquiry into the Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Technical Changes No. 2) Bill 2025

Question reference number: IQ25-000021

Question asked by: Penny Allman-Payne

Type of Question: Spoken. **Hansard Page/s:** 25

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 9 October 2025

Question:

Senator ALLMAN-PAYNE: In terms of those—I won't use the word 'modelling'—estimates, what's your highest estimate to date that you think might be captured by this?

Mr Flavel: We'll take that on notice.

Answer:

The Department estimated around 3.1 million debts potentially impacted by income apportionment fall within the period 20 September 2003 to 6 December 2020 and may be eligible for the income apportionment resolution scheme. Services Australia sampling indicated the median variation was less than \$100. About one-third of the sample showed income apportionment reduced the debt calculated, so income support recipients were better off because of income apportionment.

The actual number of people who will receive a resolution payment via the income apportionment resolution scheme will be dependent on the number of people who apply and are eligible for a resolution payment. It is not possible to state with certainty how many people will receive a resolution payment in a claims-driven system.