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.