

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Question from Senator Siewert

Question reference number: SQ20-000514

Senator: Rachel Siewert

Type of Question: Written. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 24 July 2020

Question:

At the hearing on 30 April DSS indicated that costing assumptions included a total number of recipients as at September 2020 for Jobseeker and Youth Allowance (Other) of 1.7 million. Please provide the total number of recipients as at September 2020 included in the costing assumptions for all payments attracting the coronavirus supplement, broken down by payment type.

Answer:

The original costing assumption figures for social security recipients who will be qualified for the Coronavirus Supplement at September 2020 is around 2.3 million. This includes:

- 1,526,000 on Jobseeker Payment
- 180,000 on Youth Allowance (other)
- 286,000 on Parenting Payment Single
- 70,000 on Parenting Payment Partnered
- 24,000 on Special Benefit
- 900 on Partner Allowance
- 7,000 on Widow Allowance
- 9,000 on ABSTUDY
- 37,000 on Austudy
- 191,000 on Youth Allowance (student)

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Question from Senator Gallagher

Question reference number: SQ20-000515

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Type of Question: Written. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 24 July 2020

Question:

Please provide an update to the following figures based on the latest available data point:

- a. Coronavirus supplement – total value and number of recipients
- b. Jobseeker, Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) – total value and number of recipients.

Answer:

Table 1 provides the total number of recipients of payments eligible for Coronavirus Supplement as at 10 July 2020 and total Coronavirus Supplement outlays for the fortnight ending 10 July 2020.

Table 2 provides the number of recipients of JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance (other) as at 10 July 2020 and total outlays (including Coronavirus Supplement) for the fortnight ending 10 July 2020.

As the number of recipients is point in time (as at 10 July 2020) and Coronavirus Supplement outlays cover the fortnight ending on 10 July 2020, these figures are not directly comparable. For example, recipients of the supplement during the fortnight may no longer be on a payment as at 10 July 2020.

Newstart Allowance is not included as the payment has ceased and was replaced by JobSeeker Payment on 20 March 2020.

Table 1.

Total number of recipients of payments eligible for Coronavirus Supplement as at 10 July 2020*	Coronavirus Supplement outlays – fortnight ending 10 July 2020 - \$m
2,246,620	\$1,244.7

* Payments attracting the Coronavirus Supplement are: ABSTUDY Living Allowance, Austudy, JobSeeker Payment, Parenting Payment, Partner Allowance, Sickness Allowance, Special Benefit, Widow Allowance and Youth Allowance.

Table 2.

Payment	Number of recipients: as at 10 July 2020	Coronavirus Supplement outlays: fortnight ending 10 July 2020 - \$m	Total payment outlays (including Coronavirus Supplement): fortnight ending 10 July 2020 - \$m
JobSeeker Payment	1,446,791	\$809.1	\$1,593.4
Youth Allowance (other)	174,480	\$91.3	\$151.6
Total	1,621,271	\$900.4	\$1,745.0