

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Public Hearing – 20 August 2020 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Question 2

Question reference number: SQ20-000558

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Type of Question: Spoken. Hansard Page/s: 56

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 01 September 2020

Question:

CHAIR: Yes, that would be useful. So, Minister, I wasn't trying to have a battle with you. I was just trying to understand how often those reports are generated, because there are people in the community who would like that information weekly. Fortnightly is certainly better than we were getting, but weekly is what others are after. And I was presuming that you would have access to that information weekly. That was the reason I asked the question.

Senator Ruston: Sure. I'm more than happy to take that on notice on the basis of your subsequent explanation of what you're seeking. I received the fortnightly reports that have just been referred to. Clearly I get other information in addition to that, and I'm quite happy to take it on notice to see whether there's additional information I can make available to the committee that would assist in that regard.

Answer:

Arrangements have been established by the Department of Social Services to provide the Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 (“the Committee”) fortnightly data on income support recipients by state/territory and by Statistical Area Level 2 and monthly data on income support recipients and earnings. In addition, to the data provided to the Committee, the *Jobseeker Payment and Youth Allowance recipients – monthly profile* report is provided each month on www.data.gov.au.