

From: Parlservices

Sent: Friday, 17 June 2011 5:08 PM

Subject: RE: Family Assistance Bill - written questions on notice

Please find set out below the answer to the Family Assistance Bill written question on notice for FaHCSIA.

2) What are the number of people per year across the forward estimates for this program who:

2a) will be initially rejected from DSP?

2b) will eventually be placed on DSP?

| | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 2a) Initially rejected from DSP | 14,790 | 17,892 | 17,979 | 18,065 |
| 2b) Eventually placed on DSP | 2,943 | 5,375 | 7,429 | 7,477 |

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**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Inquiry into the Family Assistance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2011
Public Hearing, 15 June 2011**

**Answers to questions on notice
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs**

Question No. 1

Topic: OECD analysis of Australian spending on family benefits

Hansard Page: page 7

Senator Boyce asked:

The Minister recently talked about analysis showing that in international terms our spending on family benefits was 1.76 per cent of GDP and therefore quite high against an international average of 1.17 per cent of GDP. Would you be able to provide that to the committee? That report or piece of information?

Answer:

In 2005, Australian spending on cash benefits to families was 1.76 per cent of GDP, compared to the OECD average of 1.17 per cent.

The OECD recently updated their database with the latest data from the OECD (2007), which shows that Australia is now spending 1.8 per cent of GDP on cash benefits to families, compared with the OECD average of 1.22 per cent.

The link to the latest OECD data is:

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/55/58/38968865.xls>

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Question No. 2

Topic: Double Orphan Pension

Hansard Page: page 10

Senator Boyce asked:

Will there be any changes to the double orphan pension in regard to how it flows on?
Will there be flow-on effects from changing schedule 1 to people on double orphan pensions?

Answer:

The maximum age of a young person for whom a carer may qualify for Double Orphan Pension is 21 years. This maximum age aligns with the proposed lowering of the maximum child age for Family Tax Benefit Part A from 24 to 21 on 1 January 2012. Therefore, the proposed change to Family Tax Benefit will not affect a person's qualification for Double Orphan Pension.

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Question No. 3

Topic: Families receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A or Part B

Hansard Page: page 11

Senator Siewert asked:

Can you take on notice the breakdowns in the income threshold groups and the numbers in those threshold groups for FTB Part A and B? The maximum rate or reduced rate for A, the maximum rate or reduced rate for B, by single or partnered, and if they are on income support.

Answer:

As family characteristics may change during the entitlement year, it is not possible to report on the characteristics of the total number of families who were entitled to FTB Part A or FTB Part B at any time during 2008-09. However, of the total 1.9 million FTB Part A families and 1.6 million FTB Part B families, the table below shows the characteristics of those families receiving FTB Part A, or FTB Part B, based on family circumstances at a point in time of two weeks before the end of the 2008-09 financial year (16 June 2009).

Table: Families receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A (excluding those who receive rent assistance only as they have less than 35 per cent care of a child), or Family Tax Benefit Part B, based on family circumstances at 16 June 2009.

| FTB recipients | Couple | | | Single | | | Total |
|----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------|-----------|
| | Not on income support | On income support | Total | Not on income support | On income support | Total | |
| Maximum FTB-A | 167,300 | 193,500 | 360,800 | 36,700 | 226,600 | 263,300 | 624,100 |
| Reduced FTB-A | 861,400 | 13,700 | 875,100 | 154,800 | 195,200 | 350,000 | 1,225,100 |
| Total FTB-A | 1,028,700 | 207,200 | 1,235,900 | 191,500 | 421,800 | 613,300 | 1,849,200 |
| Maximum FTB-B | 365,200 | 41,500 | 406,700 | 184,000 | 420,700 | 604,700 | 1,011,400 |
| Reduced FTB-B | 316,200 | 152,300 | 468,500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 468,500 |
| Total FTB-B | 681,400 | 193,800 | 875,200 | 184,000 | 420,700 | 604,700 | 1,479,900 |
| Total FTB | 1,080,900 | 207,200 | 1,288,100 | 195,500 | 421,800 | 617,300 | 1,905,400 |

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Question No. 4

Topic: Percentage of families receiving Family Tax Benefit Part B

Hansard Page: page 12

Senator Boyce asked:

What was the percentage of families in Australia who received Family Tax Benefit Part B in 2008-09?

Answer:

Around 60 per cent of families in Australia received Family Tax Benefit Part B in 2008-09.

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**Answers to questions on notice
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Question No. 5

Topic: Lump sum recipients of Family Tax Benefit

Hansard Page: page 13

Senator Boyce asked:

What is the percentage claiming Family Tax Benefit as a lump sum at the end of the year?

Answer:

The percentage of Family Tax Benefit recipients for 2008-09 who were paid as a lump sum was 6.9 per cent, as at March 2011.

The final number and percentage of Family Tax Benefit recipients for 2008-09 who were paid as a lump sum will only be available after June 2011, but will not be substantially different.