



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Shane Bennett
Acting Deputy Secretary

Ref: EC20-001360

Senator Katy Gallagher
Chair
Senate Select Committee on COVID-19
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Gallagher

I am writing to you in relation to the provision of regular data to the Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 (the Committee).

Noting the data requests the Committee has placed on notice, from next week, the Department of Social Services (the department) will commence a fortnightly and monthly data report for the Committee. The first report will provide data as at 31 July 2020.

The department will provide the Committee with a:

- **fortnightly** report for income support recipients by payment type by state/territory by Statistical Area Level 2, and
- **monthly** report for income support recipients by own earnings and partner earnings.

The Committee will not need to request this information on notice, rather the department will provide this directly to the secretariat for distribution to Committee members. I anticipate this will assist the Committee with accessing the data it is seeking.

This reporting is also additional to the *JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance recipients – monthly profile* report and the quarterly release of the *DSS Payment Demographic Data* report. Both of these products are publicly available at data.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

29 July 2020