

# Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs Legislation Committee

## ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

### Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Decision to reduce the rate of the coronavirus supplement

**Question reference number:** IQ20-000032

**Senator:** Rachel Siewert

**Type of Question:** Written. Hansard Page/s:

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

**Question:**

What evidence was used to inform the decision to reduce the rate of the coronavirus supplement to \$150 a fortnight?

**Answer:**

The Department of Social Services regularly provides advice to Government on a range of issues and considers a range of indicators in preparing advice on the Coronavirus Supplement, including, but not limited to:

- Labour market and social security observations, for example,
  - ABS Labour Force data,
  - monthly and quarterly analysis of social services demographic data.
- External analysis, for example,
  - the Reserve Bank of Australia's views of the economic outlook,
  - The National Skills Commission's 'Recruitment Experiences and Outlook Snapshot'.
- Other relevant indicators, for example,
  - the internet vacancy index,
  - quarterly retail trade volumes.

# **Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

## **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Consultation

**Question reference number:** IQ20-000033

**Senator:** Rachel Siewert

**Type of Question:** Written. Hansard Page/s:

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

### **Question:**

Did the Department undertake a consultation process around this Bill? If so, who was consulted and what views did they put forward?

### **Answer:**

The department continues to closely monitor social media, incoming correspondence from members of the public including income support recipients and feedback from Services Australia and other stakeholders including social services sector representatives and business groups.

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**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Modelling scenarios

**Question reference number:** IQ20-000034

**Senator:** Rachel Siewert

**Type of Question:** Written. Hansard Page/s:

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

**Question:**

What scenarios were modelled in relation to the short, medium and long-term economic impacts of reducing the coronavirus supplement?

**Answer:**

The Department of Social Services provides advice on a range of issues, including scenarios, related to the temporary Coronavirus Supplement.

**Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Department of Social Services**

**Topic:** Impact of reducing the coronavirus supplement

**Question reference number:** IQ20-000035

**Senator:** Rachel Siewert

**Type of Question:** Written. Hansard Page/s:

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

**Question:**

Did the Department analyse the impact of reducing the coronavirus supplement to \$150 a fortnight on:

- Unemployment;
- Job creation;
- Poverty;
- First Nations peoples;
- Disabled people living on Jobseeker Payment;
- Single parents;
- Children living in households with a parent on Jobseeker Payment;
- People's ability to pay their rent or mortgage repayments.

**Answer:**

Refer to IQ20-000032.

**Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Poverty line

**Question reference number:** IQ20-000036

**Senator:** Rachel Siewert

**Type of Question:** Written. Hansard Page/s:

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

**Question:**

How many people receiving the coronavirus supplement will be living below the poverty line after 1 January 2020 once the supplement is reduced to \$150 a fortnight?

**Answer:**

See response to IQ21-000022.

**Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Number of people expected to receive coronavirus supplement

**Question reference number:** IQ20-000037

**Senator:** Rachel Siewert

**Type of Question:** Written. Hansard Page/s:

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

**Question:**

How many people do you expect will receive the coronavirus supplement between 1 January 2020 and 31 March 2021?

**Answer:**

Based on 2020-21 Budget estimates, it is anticipated that 2.2 million social security recipients will be eligible for the Coronavirus Supplement between 1 January 2021 and 31 March 2021.