

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Australian Taxation Office
Public Hearing 11 February 2021

Department/Agency: ATO

Question: 6

Topic: ERS applications also on JobSeeker

Reference: Hansard Page 27

Senator: Siewert

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: I want to just go back to the early release super scheme. Do you know how many applied for super who were on the JobSeeker payment? Is that data that you have?

Mr Hirschhorn: I do not have that data in front of me. I'm not sure if we are able to find that data. In response to the Chair's previous question, we have produced and will produce again data on how many people on income bands but I'm not sure if we've identified, say, the particular people in a particular income band or on JobSeeker or not. Maybe this might be one which is better done in a table, in a question on notice, but I can tell you that in, for example, people earning less than \$18,000, so between \$1 and \$18,200, there were about 200,000 applications in the second phase.

Senator SIEWERT: That's in the second phase?

Mr Hirschhorn: Yes.

Senator SIEWERT: Do we know for the first phase?

Mr Hirschhorn: I think I have tranche 2 data in front of me rather than total scheme data. I would have to come back to you with that number.

Senator SIEWERT: I would appreciate it if you could, thank you

Answer:

The ATO does not have specific data available on applicants who were in receipt of the JobSeeker payment.

817,200 (17.9%) of the total approved applications across the program were submitted under the eligibility category *Eligible for government benefit - JobSeeker payment or parenting payment or special benefit*.

Of these, there were 406,200 (16.5%) applications in 2019-20 year and 411,000 (19.5%) in 2020-21 year respectively submitted under this category.