

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19  
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Written Questions from Senator Gallagher - Question 1

**Question reference number:** SQ20-000483

**Senator:** Katy Gallagher

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

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 10 July 2020

**Question:**

Please provide an update to the answer to SQ20-000425, which shows the weekly number of claimants and recipients for Newstart/JobSeeker and Youth Allowance (other). In addition:

- a. Indicate the gender of claimants and recipients for each payment in each week;
- b. Indicate the age of claimants and recipients in line with usual reporting ages for the DSS Demographic Data dataset (under 16, 16-20, 21-24, 25-34, 45-54, 55-64 and over 65).

**Answer:**

An update of SQ20-000425 to 26 June 2020, recipient numbers and claims on hand by gender and age group is provided at Attachment A.

## Attachment A

**Table 1: Recipient numbers and claims on hand for Newstart Allowance, JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance (other)  
28 February 2020 - 26 June 2020**

As at:	Newstart Allowance*		JobSeeker Payment*		Youth Allowance (other)		Total jobseekers
	Recipients	Claims on hand^	Recipients	Claims on hand	Recipients	Claims on hand	Total Recipients
28-Feb-20	730,136	16,293	n/a	n/a	85,736	4,027	815,872
6-Mar-20	732,113	16,542	n/a	n/a	85,756	3,945	817,869
13-Mar-20	727,890	20,017	n/a	n/a	84,884	4,280	812,774
20-Mar-20	n/a	28,946	796,272	6,133	91,624	5,672	887,896
27-Mar-20	n/a	15,189	797,941	169,171	93,399	14,587	891,340
3-Apr-20	n/a	6,207	866,043	298,714	98,479	35,896	964,522
10-Apr-20	n/a	3,189	963,317	388,228	107,003	49,171	1,070,320
17-Apr-20	n/a	2,229	1,085,780	346,727	113,454	54,893	1,199,234
24-Apr-20	n/a	1,737	1,224,555	261,519	121,617	54,341	1,346,172
1-May-20	n/a	1,190	1,422,823	102,926	131,906	49,957	1,554,729
8-May-20	n/a	1,031	1,488,663	63,999	142,640	43,605	1,631,303
15-May-20	n/a	1,023	1,486,973	51,372	164,343	14,731	1,651,316
22-May-20	n/a	846	1,472,678	35,493	168,095	11,578	1,640,773
29-May-20	n/a	716	1,463,863	32,342	171,423	8,256	1,635,286
5-Jun-20	n/a	547	1,457,256	27,070	171,734	6,116	1,628,990
12-Jun-20	n/a	456	1,452,771	25,609	172,271	5,537	1,625,042
19-Jun-20	n/a	403	1,447,693	23,424	172,812	4,620	1,620,505
26-Jun-20	n/a	372	1,441,287	28,678	173,125	5,346	1,614,412

### Data Descriptions/Notes- Table 1:

\* Recipients of Newstart Allowance and Jobseeker Payment prior to 29 May 2020 included recipients of Bereavement Allowance and Sickness Allowance as these payments have been subsumed into JobSeeker Payment. This allowed for a better comparison between the recipient numbers. Recipients of Bereavement Allowance and Sickness Allowance recipients are no longer included in this data since 29 May 2020, due to the small number of recipients and subsequent risk of identification of individuals if combined with other publicly available data.

^ Claims on hand, includes legacy claims for Newstart Allowance, Bereavement Allowance and Sickness Allowance.

Recipients of JobSeeker Payment/Newstart Allowance/Sickness Allowance who are determined to be current (i.e. entitled to be paid) on the Centrelink payment system and not in receipt of a zero rate of payment.

Recipients of Bereavement Allowance/Youth Allowance (other) who are determined to be current (i.e. entitled to be paid) on the Centrelink payment system.

**Note:** From 20 March 2020, JobSeeker Payment replaced Newstart Allowance as the main income support payment for recipients aged between 22 years to Age Pension qualification age who have capacity to work. Bereavement Allowance closed to new entrants and will cease when all current recipients have completed their bereavement period. Sickness Allowance closed to new entrants and will cease on 20 September 2020.

**Note:** Newstart Allowance (including Bereavement Allowance and Sickness Allowance) claims reflect claim activities lodged prior to the introduction of JobSeeker Payment on 20 March 2020. Where an outstanding Newstart Allowance claim is granted, the recipient will instead transfer to JobSeeker Payment.

Source: Services Australia Administrative data

**Table 2: Recipients of JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance (other) by Gender, 29 May 2020 - 26 June 2020**

As at:	Payment Type	Gender		Total Recipients
		Female	Male	
29/05/2020	JobSeeker Payment	681,142	782,721	1,463,863
	Youth Allowance (other)	83,759	87,664	171,423
5/06/2020	JobSeeker Payment	677,562	779,694	1,457,256
	Youth Allowance (other)	83,692	88,042	171,734
12/06/2020	JobSeeker Payment	674,782	777,989	1,452,771
	Youth Allowance (other)	83,767	88,504	172,271
19/06/2020	JobSeeker Payment	671,564	776,129	1,447,693
	Youth Allowance (other)	83,774	89,038	172,812
26/06/2020	JobSeeker Payment	667,908	773,379	1,441,287
	Youth Allowance (other)	83,812	89,313	173,125

**Table 3: Recipients of JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance (other) by Age Group, 29 May 2020 - 26 June 2020**

As at	Payment Type	Age Group							Total Recipients
		16 to 20	21 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over	
29/05/2020	JobSeeker Payment	0	162,198	375,449	307,134	299,995	287,418	31,669	1,463,863
	Youth Allowance (other)	130,188	41,235	0	0	0	0	0	171,423
5/06/2020	JobSeeker Payment	0	160,618	372,886	305,382	299,042	287,598	31,730	1,457,256
	Youth Allowance (other)	130,544	41,190	0	0	0	0	0	171,734
12/06/2020	JobSeeker Payment	0	159,888	371,725	304,162	297,995	287,100	31,901	1,452,771
	Youth Allowance (other)	130,909	41,362	0	0	0	0	0	172,271
19/06/2020	JobSeeker Payment	0	158,887	369,712	303,004	297,143	287,009	31,938	1,447,693
	Youth Allowance (other)	131,481	41,331	0	0	0	0	0	172,812
26/06/2020	JobSeeker Payment	0	157,939	367,570	301,633	295,833	286,247	32,065	1,441,287
	Youth Allowance (other)	131,698	41,427	0	0	0	0	0	173,125

**Data Descriptions/Notes – Tables 2 and 3:**

Recipients of JobSeeker Payment who are determined to be current (i.e. entitled to be paid) on the Centrelink payment system and not in receipt of a zero rate of payment.

Recipients of Youth Allowance (other) who are determined to be current (i.e. entitled to be paid) on the Centrelink payment system.

Note: Recipients of Bereavement Allowance and Sickness Allowance recipients are not included in this data since 29 May 2020, due to the small number of recipients and subsequent risk of identification of individuals if combined with other publicly available data.

Source: Services Australia administrative data.

**Table 4: Claims on hand by Gender, 29 May 2020 - 26 June 2020**

As at:	Payment Type	Gender			Total Recipients
		Female	Male	Unknown	
29/05/2020	JobSeeker Payment	15,596	16,744	2	<b>32,342</b>
	Youth Allowance (other)	3,962	4,293	1	<b>8,256</b>
5/06/2020	JobSeeker Payment	13,111	13,958	1	<b>27,070</b>
	Youth Allowance (other)	2,915	3,200	1	<b>6,116</b>
12/06/2020	JobSeeker Payment	12,485	13,124	0	<b>25,609</b>
	Youth Allowance (other)	2,574	2,962	1	<b>5,537</b>
19/06/2020	JobSeeker Payment	11,504	11,920	0	<b>23,424</b>
	Youth Allowance (other)	2,156	2,463	1	<b>4,620</b>
26/06/2020	JobSeeker Payment	14,040	14,637	1	<b>28,678</b>
	Youth Allowance (other)	2,402	2,943	1	<b>5,346</b>

**Table 5: Claims on hand by Age Group, 29 May 2020 - 26 June 2020**

As at	Payment Type	Age Group								Total Recipients
		Under 16	16 to 20	21 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over	
29/05/2020	JobSeeker Payment	0	6	1,894	7,098	7,609	7,891	7,218	626	<b>32,342</b>
	Youth Allowance (other)	<5	5,974	1,939	12	106	166	49	n.p.	<b>8,256</b>
5/06/2020	JobSeeker Payment	0	<5	1,561	5,850	6,333	6,628	6,145	n.p.	<b>27,070</b>
	Youth Allowance (other)	<5	4,422	1,430	12	84	124	36	n.p.	<b>6,116</b>
12/06/2020	JobSeeker Payment	0	<5	1,579	5,632	5,974	6,179	5,737	n.p.	<b>25,609</b>
	Youth Allowance (other)	<5	4,108	1,235	7	62	92	26	n.p.	<b>5,537</b>
19/06/2020	JobSeeker Payment	0	8	1,614	5,051	5,454	5,575	5,254	468	<b>23,424</b>
	Youth Allowance (other)	n.p.	3,416	1,038	9	54	76	21	n.p.	<b>4,620</b>
26/06/2020	JobSeeker Payment	0	<5	2,358	6,707	6,641	6,509	5,926	n.p.	<b>28,678</b>
	Youth Allowance (other)	<5	4,117	1,216	6	0	<5	<5	0	<b>5,346</b>

**Data Descriptions/Notes – Table 4 and 5:**

Claims without gender recorded have been reported as unknown.

This data represents claims on hand. These claims are yet to be assessed and claims can be rejected for a variety of reasons, including for age.

In order to protect individuals' privacy, identified populations <5 are reported as '<5' and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are not provided 'n.p.'.

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19  
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Written Questions from Senator Siewert - Question 4

**Question reference number:** SQ20-000493

**Senator:** Rachel Siewert

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

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 10 July 2020

**Question:**

What steps did the government take to protect those experiencing harm from poker machines taking up other forms of online gambling during the venue shutdown?

**Answer:**

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) relaunched its digital campaign on 20 May 2020 around the risk of using illegal online gambling services under the tag lines ‘even if you win you might lose’ and ‘offshore gambling – don’t bet on it’. The campaign alerted consumers to the lack of consumer protections available on offshore gambling sites and raised awareness that offshore gambling sites are provided to Australians illegally. The campaign linked people to the ACMA’s webpage for further information, including details on how to make a complaint.

In addition, on 29 March 2020, the Australian Government announced a \$200 million Community Support Package (Package) commencing immediately over two years (from 2019-20 to 2020-21) to support vulnerable Australians impacted by coronavirus. Under this package, \$20 million has been provided for financial counselling services and supports, with over \$1.8 million to 33 providers specifically for Problem Gambling Financial counselling services. For details refer to answer to question SQ20-000456.

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19  
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Written Questions from Senator Siewert - Question 10

**Question reference number:** SQ20-000496

**Senator:** Rachel Siewert

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

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 10 July 2020

**Question:**

The regulation of poker machine venues - in particular clubs and hotels - is a matter for each state and territory. However, we know the behaviours of people severely impacted by gambling include compulsive stroking of machines, using multiple machines simultaneously, unconscious sweating or crying and overall poor personal hygiene.

What efforts did the federal government take to ensure that state/territory Ministers took these clinical matters into account when agreeing to the timetable for reopening poker machine venues?

**Answer:**

As per the Roadmap to a COVIDSafe Australia, the reopening of poker machines venues in a COVIDSafe manner is a matter for respective state and territory governments.

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19  
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Written Questions from Senator Siewert - Question 11

**Question reference number:** SQ20-000497

**Senator:** Rachel Siewert

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

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 10 July 2020

**Question:**

What were the responses of the state/territory Ministers to these representations, if any, over the high-risks of transmission in gambling rooms?

**Answer:**

Refer to the response to Question SQ20-000496.