

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

Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Written Question - 14

Question reference number: SQ20-000439

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Type of Question: Written. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 9 June 2020

Question:

Since the intention to claim was re-instated, how many people have lodged an intention to claim a DSS payment, but not proceeded to complete the claim application?

a. Under the current arrangements, how long do people have to complete an application for assistance from the date they lodge an intention to claim?

Answer:

A legislative Instrument *Social Security (Coronavirus Economic Response — 2020 Measures No. 9) Determination 2020* was registered on 17 April 2020 to temporarily extend the time for lodging a claim for a social security payment after contacting Services Australia to advise of an intent to claim. Under the determination, people contacting Services Australia between 23 March 2020 and 21 April 2020 could have their claim date backdated provided they lodged their claim by 8 May 2020.

Under the temporary extension, there were 859,015 registrations of an intent to claim via myGov that had not yet lodged a claim by 8 May 2020.

An individual could register an intent to claim but not lodge by 8 May 2020 for a number of reasons, including because they were eligible for the JobKeeper Payment instead of a social security payment; they determined they would not have met applicable eligibility criteria as a result of a subsequent change in their circumstances; they may no longer have required payment; or they lodged their claim after 8 May 2020.

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

Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Written Question - 15

Question reference number: SQ20-000440

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Type of Question: Written. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 2 June 2020

Question:

When was the decision made to stop the current intention to claim process? Who made the decision? Did DSS provide advice on continuing to allow people to lodge an intention to claim?

Answer:

A legislative instrument (*Social Security (Coronavirus Economic Response—2020 Measures No. 9) Determination 2020*) was signed by the Minister for Families and Social Services and registered on 17 April 2020 to extend the time that applicants for social security payments have to lodge a claim to 8 May 2020 after contacting Services Australia to advise of an intent to claim. This applied to people contacting Services Australia between 23 March 2020 and 21 April 2020.

The Department of Social Services regularly provides advice on a range of issues related to social security payments.

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Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Written Question - 18

Question reference number: SQ20-000443

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Type of Question: Written. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 2 June 2020

Question:

How many people does DSS project expect will be receiving the Coronavirus Supplement in the fortnight that is ceases in September?

a. Provide a break down by state/territory and Commonwealth Electoral Division.

Answer:

When all Coronavirus Supplement recipients are included, there is estimated to be 2.3 million recipients in September 2020.

The Coronavirus Supplement is payable to recipients of the Jobseeker payment, Youth Allowance (Other), Youth Allowance (Student), Parenting Payment Single, Parenting Payment Partnered, Special Benefit, Partner Allowance, Widow Allowance, Sickness Allowance, Austudy, ABSTUDY (Living Allowance), and Farm Household Allowance

a. breakdown by state/territory and Commonwealth Electoral Division is not available.