

## **Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights: Examination of Social Security (Parenting payment participation requirements – class of persons) instrument 2021**

### **Responses to Questions on Notice**

Our responses to the Questions on Notice taken by Mission Australia's representatives, Mr Stephen Vines and Mr Paul Rennie, at the Committee's hearing on Friday 25 June 2021 are below.

#### **Number and percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our current caseload.**

As of 30 June 2021, there were 1,052 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants in our total caseload of 5,814 participants (18%).

Of those 1,052 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, 11 (1.05%) had a current payment suspension.

#### **Number and percentage of payment suspensions in our current caseload.**

As of 30 June 2021, there were 5,814 active participants in our caseload, of whom 36 (0.6%) were on a payment suspension.

#### **Amount of funding received by Mission Australia targeted to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants in ParentsNext.**

Mission Australia receives the same outcome payment funding for all participants, irrespective of their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage. Funding amounts are therefore proportionate to those on caseload.

#### **Number and percentage of participants who engaged with the pilot program.**

We do not have complete access to the historical data for the pilot program. Our records of reports to the Department show that during the period July 2017-June 2018 we had a total of 2,104 participants. During this time, 98% of participants attended their scheduled appointments (note that this was the KPI measure reported back to the Department).

#### **Number and percentage of participants who continued to engage with the program during the COVID pause on mutual obligations.**

During the period 1 April 2020 to 31 July 2020, during which time the temporary pause on mutual obligations was in place across Australia, we had a total caseload of 6,866 and an attendance rate of 71.71%.