

APPENDIX 3

Joint agency response to question taken on notice

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into the adequacy of Newstart and other allowance payments and other matters

Senator Siewert asked on 17 September 2012, hansard page 18.

Question

Senator SIEWERT: Could you take on notice a request for details of the supplements: how many supplements there are and for whom, because, although I have read the details I find it confusing as to who can get what in terms of Telephone Allowance, Remote Area Allowance, literacy and numeracy supplement and the Pharmaceutical Allowance? Can you tell me who can get them?

Mr Jalayer: Yes.

Senator SIEWERT: Also, how many have been available over the past year?

Answer

Supplementary payments are available to eligible income support recipients for a range of circumstances. A list of common supplements is provided in the Department's submission to the inquiry at Appendix C.

The attached Table provides additional information.

Payment or supplementary benefit	Payment description	Rate of payment per fortnight unless noted (as at 20 September 2012)	NSA	PPS	PPP	YA(o)	ABSTUDY (Living Allowance)	Austudy	YA(s)	DSP
Rent Assistance	Rent Assistance is a supplementary payment added on to the pension, allowance or benefit of income support recipients and low-income families in the private rental market, in recognition of the housing costs they face. For most families, Rent Assistance is paid through FTB Part A.	Up to \$141.82 per fortnight for a family with one or two children	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Family Tax Benefit Part A	FTB Part A is the primary payment designed to help with the cost of raising children. As part of the 2012-13 Budget, from 1 July 2013, FTB Part A will increase for all eligible families. For those on the maximum rate, the increase will be \$300 per year for families with one child and an increase of \$600 for families with two or more children. For families receiving the base rate, the increase will be \$100 for families with one child and \$200 for families with two or more children.	Up to \$169.68 per fortnight for a child under 13 years Up to \$220.64 per fortnight for a child aged 13-15 years	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Family Tax Benefit Part B	FTB Part B provides extra help to families with one main income earner, including sole parent families, with a dependent full time student up to the age of 18 years.	Up to \$144.34 per fortnight for a child under five years Up to \$100.66 per fortnight for a child five to 15 years	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Child Care Benefit (CCB)	CCB is a means tested payment from the Australian Government that helps lower income families with the cost of child care. CCB is available to eligible families using either approved child care services or registered care. Most families using approved child care receive this subsidy as a fee reduction when they pay their fees.	Up to \$93.60 for 24 hours of child care per week Up to \$195 for 50 hours of child care per week	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Child Care Rebate (CCR)	CCR is an additional payment available to all working families with the cost of child care to help with the cost of child care. CCR provides up to 50 per cent of families out-of-pocket child care costs, up to the 2012-13 annual cap of \$7 500 per child per year.	50 per cent of remaining out-of-pocket expenses after CCB and JETCCFA are paid – rate will vary depending on child care fees	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
JET Child Care Fee Assistance (JETCCFA)	JETCCFA is a payment which helps eligible parents who are in receipt of income support with the cost of approved child care while they undertake work, study or training activities. As part of the 2012 Budget, a further \$225.1 million will be invested in JETCCFA over four years. This will enable more than 130 000 parents to access the program to help these parents enhance their skills through work, study or training to enter or re-enter the workforce, without the cost of child care as a barrier.	Covers most of the 'gap' between the total child care fee and the amount covered by CCB – rate will vary depending on child care fees	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
Education Tax Rebate (ETR)/Schoolkids Bonus	The ETR helps eligible families and independent students with the cost of primary and secondary education. As part of the 2012-13 Budget, a new Schoolkids Bonus will replace the ETR and will be paid directly to all eligible recipients, helping more families with more generous, timely and flexible support. From 2013, eligible families will automatically receive the Bonus, paid in two equal instalments, in January and July each year. As a transitional arrangement, families will receive the full 2011-12 ETR entitlement in a single payment in June 2012.	\$205 paid twice annually for primary school students/\$410 paid twice annually for secondary school students	Y – if eligible for FTB Part A for a primary/secondary school child	Y – if eligible for FTB Part A for a primary/secondary school child	Y – if eligible for FTB Part A for a primary/secondary school child	Y – if eligible for FTB Part A for a primary/secondary school child	Y – if eligible for FTB Part A for a primary/secondary school child OR if aged 16 to turning 19 and in full-time secondary study	Y – if eligible for FTB Part A for a primary/secondary school child	Y – if eligible for FTB Part A for a primary/secondary school child OR up to 19 years and in full-time secondary study	Y – if eligible for FTB Part A for a primary/secondary school child OR up to 19 years and in full-time secondary study and receiving PES

Payment or supplementary benefit	Payment description	Rate of payment per fortnight unless noted (as at 20 September 2012)	NSA	PPS	PPP	YA(o)	ABSTUDY (Living Allowance)	Austudy	YA(s)	DSP
Pharmaceutical Allowance	Pharmaceutical Allowance is paid automatically to eligible income support recipients, including Parenting Payment Single recipients and single principal carers on Newstart Allowance.	\$6.20 (for singles) or \$3.10 (for each member of a couple)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y if aged under 21
Telephone Allowance	Telephone Allowance is a quarterly payment to assist with the costs of maintaining a telephone service. It is paid to eligible income support recipients who are telephone subscribers.	\$102.40 per year (or \$25.60 per quarter)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y if aged under 21
Supplementary Allowance (Income Support Bonus – subject to passage of legislation)	As part of the 2012-13 Budget, a new, non means-tested, tax-free lump sum Income Support Bonus will be payable to recipients of eligible payments (including Parenting Payment and Newstart Allowance) from March 2013 to help families manage unanticipated financial pressures and rising costs (subject to the passage of legislation).	\$210 per year for a single person (two instalments of \$105) \$175 per year for a person who is a member of a couple (two instalments of \$87.50)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Pensioner Education Supplement (PES)	PES assists certain pensioner groups with the costs of study to enable them to gain a qualification that will improve their employment prospects. Recipients must be receiving an eligible income support payment, such as Parenting Payment Single or Disability Support Pension, and be undertaking an approved course. Parenting Payment Single recipients who are receiving PES when they transfer to Newstart Allowance because their youngest child is aged eight or older, can continue receiving PES while on Newstart Allowance until the end of their course.	\$62.40 (full rate) \$31.20 (part-rate for certain part-time students)	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Education Entry Payment	The Education Entry Payment is a lump-sum payment of \$208 payable once every 12 months or once each calendar year to recipients of PES and long-term allowance recipients who are undertaking approved study.	\$208 lump sum	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y
Approved Program of Work Supplement	Fortnightly supplement paid to recipients of eligible income support payments who are undertaking approved work experience activities, such as Work for the Dole, Green Corps and CDEP.	\$20.80	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
Language, Literacy and Numeracy Supplement	Fortnightly supplement paid to recipients of eligible income support payments who are participating in the Language, Literacy and Numeracy Program to help with the costs of attending their activity.	\$20.80	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y

Payment or supplementary benefit	Payment description	Rate of payment per fortnight unless noted (as at 20 September 2012)	NSA	PPS	PPP	YA(o)	ABSTUDY (Living Allowance)	Austudy	YA(s)	DSP
Pension Supplement	The Pension Supplement is a means tested fortnightly payment which has absorbed and combined the former GST Supplement, Utilities Allowance, Telephone Allowance and Pharmaceutical Allowance.	Maximum \$60.60 (single) \$91.40 (couple combined) Minimum \$32.50 (single) \$49.00 (couples combined) Basic \$21.10 (single) \$35.20 (couples combined)	N	Y – over age pension age Basic rate under age pension age	Y – over age pension age	N	N	Y – over age pension age	N	Y – unless under 21 years without children
Youth Disability Supplement	Youth Disability Supplement is a fortnightly supplement paid to young people with disabilities recognising additional costs associated with having a disability.	Up to \$114.00	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y- when aged under 21
Remote Area Allowance	Remote Area Allowance helps to meet additional costs associated with residence in remote areas. It recognises that many income support recipients who do not pay tax, or pay very little tax, do not receive the full benefit of tax zone rebates. Remote Area Allowance makes a contribution towards some of the higher costs associated with living in particularly remote areas.	\$18.20 for single people \$15.60 for coupled recipients (each) \$7.30 for each dependent child	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Fares Allowance	Reimbursement of the cost of the cheapest practicable form of public transport, regardless of transport actually used to tertiary students who have to live away from their permanent home for study. Not available for daily travel.	Cost of transport	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Student Start-up Scholarships	All full-time students (not receiving a Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarship(CECS) or Indigenous CECS) in receipt of a student income support payment, who are undertaking a higher education or preparatory course at a higher education institution will receive the Student	Paid in two half-yearly instalments of \$1025 (\$2050 annually)	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Relocation Scholarship	Relocation Scholarship is a payment made once a year to help dependent students in higher education who live away from their family home while studying.	\$4000 per year in the first year of study \$1000 per year thereafter for metropolitan students \$2000 per year thereafter for regional students in their second and third year of study with \$1000 per year in any following years	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N

Payment or supplementary benefit	Payment description	Rate of payment per fortnight unless noted (as at 20 September 2012)	NSA	PPS	PPP	YA(o)	ABSTUDY (Living Allowance)	Austudy	YA(s)	DSP
Training Supplement	CLOSED PAYMENT - A time-limited fortnightly supplement payment to assist low-skilled job seekers who fully meet their activity test or participation requirements through approved study or training. The Training Supplement ceased to be available for new claimants commencing an approved course on or after 1 July 2011, but continues until the end of their course for recipients who commenced payment prior to 1 July 2011.	\$41.60	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
National Green Jobs Corps Supplement	CLOSED PAYMENT - Fortnightly supplement to assist with the cost of participating in 26 weeks of accredited training, skills development and work experience associated with projects aimed at conservation, protection and rejuvenation of Australia's environment and cultural heritage. The program and supplement ceased to be available to new participants from 1 January 2012, but can continue up to 30 June 2012 for participants who commenced prior to 31 December 2011.	\$41.60	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
Carer Allowance	Fortnightly supplement paid to someone who provides daily care and attention at home to a person or dependent child with disability or medical condition.	\$114 Plus \$1000 Child Disability Assistance payment annually on 1 July to a person receiving Carer Allowance for a child under 16 years	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Pensioner Concession Card (PCC)	The PCC is issued automatically to recipients of eligible income support payments. The PCC provides concessions on discounted PBS prescription items as well as valuable core concessions, including include reductions on fares on public transport, council and municipal rates including water and sewerage, electricity bills, and motor vehicle registration charges. State, Territory and Local Governments, and some private providers may also offer additional health, household, transport, education and recreation concessions to PCC holders. Generally people must be receiving a qualifying payment to have a PCC; however, recipients of PPS and NSA who lose entitlement to payment solely due to employment income will retain the PCC for 12 weeks after going off payment. PPS recipients who lose entitlement to PPS due to the age of their youngest child but are not eligible to move to NSA will not retain their PCC for 12 weeks.	N/A	Y – if a single principal carer of a dependent child, assessed as partial capacity to work, or aged 60 or over and in receipt of payment for at least nine months	Y	Y – if assessed as partial capacity to work, or aged 60 or over and in receipt of payment for at least nine months	Y – if a single principal carer of a dependent child, or assessed as partial capacity to work	N	N	N	Y
Health Care Card (HCC)	The HCC is issued automatically to recipients of eligible allowance payments. The HCC provides concessions for PBS prescription items and certain medical services, as well as reductions on fares on public transport. Additional concessions may be available and may vary from State to State. People who are not eligible for income support may qualify for a Low-Income HCC if their income is below the relevant threshold.	N/A	Y	N – receive PCC instead	Y	Y	Y – Low-Income HCC only	Y – Low-Income HCC only	Y – Low-Income HCC only	N – receive PCC instead