

Question on notice no. 738

Portfolio question number: OSE23-738

2023-24 Supplementary Budget estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Nick McKim: asked the Department of Home Affairs on 23 October 2023—

Please provide the Committee with a breakdown from the 2016-17 financial year to this program year by:

- a. all asylum seekers and refugees receiving support under the SRSS program;
- b. offshore cohort receiving support under the SRSS program;
- c. all asylum seekers and refugees receiving financial assistance under the SRSS program;
- d. offshore cohort receiving financial assistance under the SRSS program;
- e. total budget cost the SRSS program; and
- f. total cost of financial assistance provided under the SRSS program.

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
OCTOBER 2023**

**Home Affairs Portfolio
Department of Home Affairs**

Program 2.3: Refugee Humanitarian, Settlement and Migrant Services

**OSE23-738 - Status Resolution Support Services - Breakdown by Financial Year
since FY16-17**

Senator Nick McKim asked:

Please provide the Committee with a breakdown from the 2016-17 financial year to this program year by:

- a. all asylum seekers and refugees receiving support under the SRSS program;
- b. offshore cohort receiving support under the SRSS program;
- c. all asylum seekers and refugees receiving financial assistance under the SRSS program;
- d. offshore cohort receiving financial assistance under the SRSS program;
- e. total budget cost the SRSS program; and
- f. total cost of financial assistance provided under the SRSS program.

Answer:

a. **Table 1: Number of people receiving SRSS Support**

| Year as at 30 June | SRSS Total recipients |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2017 | 18,671 |
| 2018 | 10,912 |
| 2019 | 5,482 |
| 2020 | 4,278 |
| 2021 | 2,329 |
| 2022 | 1,606 |
| 2023 (as at 30 June 2023) | 1,541 |
| 2023 (as at 31 August 2023) | 1,517 |

- b. See response to OSE23-737 for transitory persons located onshore receiving SRSS support.
- c. As at 31 August 2023, 1,098 persons were receiving financial assistance (income support) under the SRSS program.
- d. See response to OSE23-737 for transitory persons located onshore receiving SRSS financial support.

e. and f. **Table2: Total cost of the SRSS program**

| Year | e) Total SRSS costs \$'m ¹ | f) Amount paid direct by Services Australia \$'m ² |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| 2016-17 | 369.7 | 208.0 |
| 2017-18 | 248.6 | 129.9 |
| 2018-19 | 138.8 | 66.8 |
| 2019-20 | 104.3 | 40.0 |
| 2020-21 | 85.8 | 31.1 |
| 2021-22 | 64.4 | 16.9 |
| 2022-23 | 67.6 | 13.8 |
| 2023-24 (as at 31 August 2023) | 13.9 | 2.5 |

1. Provides total actual costs for the SRSS program for each financial year, including payments made direct by Services Australia.
2. Provides the total SRSS income support paid by Services Australia for each financial year as a component of the total actual costs identified in response to e).