

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 24 FEBRUARY 2011 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Grandparents as Carers

Question reference number: HS 15

Senator: Fierravanti-Wells

Type of question: Hansard CA page 96

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Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS - Is there any way that you can determine statistics in relation to how many grandparents are now full-time carers or guardians of grandchildren?

Mr Sandison - Do you mean just generally how many there are around the country?

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS - Yes. Do you have statistics that look at full-time carers or guardians of grandchildren?

Mr Sandison - I would take that on notice. The issues link to our payment data, and FaCHSIA is primarily the owner of the sort of broader policy around support for them.

Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS - I did go to them this morning and they told me to come here, so that is why I am here. I have one last question in this area: if you have any data on grandparents as full-time carers, can you provide me with information as to grandparents who care for more than one grandchild?

Mr Sandison - Certainly.

Answer:

There are 18,747 customers in receipt of Family Tax Benefit (FTB) who have identified themselves as a relative carer; of these, 7,345 (or almost 40 per cent) are identified as grandparent carers. Only 201 of the identified grandparent carers are in receipt of FTB for more than one child.

It is likely that the above data undercounts the total grandparent carer population. The reason for this is that it counts only the population of grandparent carers who are receiving FTB and not grandparent carers who do not collect FTB.