

## Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

### ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 24 FEBRUARY 2011 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Human Services Portfolio

**Topic:** Cyclone Yasi

**Question reference number:** HS 5

**Senator:** Humphries

**Type of question:** Hansard CA pages 84-85

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 8 April 2011

**Number of pages:** 2

#### Question:

**Senator HUMPHRIES** - It has been drawn to my attention that the population of Cairns - I assume this is an amalgamation of the Cairns local government districts that make up the city of Cairns - is a bit under 165,000 and under Yasi we have had 227,000 claims. Obviously Yasi would cover areas outside Cairns as well, like Cardwell.

**Mr Tidswell** - That is right, and down into Townsville. There was a major impact in Townsville in terms of power outages there.

a) **Senator HUMPHRIES** - Do you know what the population of the declared areas is?

**Mr Tidswell** - I do not have that with me. We can get that for you. I am not sure if we can get that for you tonight, but it is sizeable. It is a sizeable part of the community there. We have cross-referenced with data sets and the payments seem about right.

**Senator HUMPHRIES** - It is evident that a very large proportion of the affected population is, in fact, making the application for these payments. I suppose in places like Cardwell everybody was affected.

**Mr Tidswell** - It would seem that way, but I do not have the figures to say what percentage of the population the 227,000 claims is.

**Senator BOYCE** - Do you have that for the flood areas?

**Senator HUMPHRIES** - The population totals?

b) **Senator BOYCE** - What percentage of the population in south-east Queensland, for example, has claimed the AGDRP?

**Mr Tidswell** - I do not have that with me. We can take that on notice. I am sure there is a data set there that tells us how many people live in the LGAs declared, but as you can see, there is a large list of LGAs that are included. As you all know, this was a significant and major event.

c) **Senator HUMPHRIES** - Can you tell me what the average time is between application and payment

**Answer:**

**a) and b)**

The table below provides data of the number and the percentage of the population who claimed and were paid the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP) for the Queensland floods and Tropical Cyclone Yasi.

In summary, a total of:

- 12 per cent of the population in the declared Local Government Areas (LGAs) for the floods were paid AGDRP; and
- 38 per cent of the population in the declared LGAs for Tropical Cyclone Yasi were paid AGDRP.

<b>AGDRP declared region</b>	<b>Estimated resident population as at 30/06/09</b>	<b>Total paid (adults and children) as at 18/03/11</b>	<b>Percentage of population paid</b>
<b>Queensland Floods</b>	4,382,901	537,206	12%
<b>Tropical Cyclone Yasi</b>	654,238	251,631	38%

- All data supplied is point in time as at midnight on the date quoted. This means that the data is reflective of the point in time when the snapshot was taken.

**c)**

Over 75 per cent of claims were finalised within two days of the date the claim receipt was recorded. Claims are received via various channels, including at recovery centres, over the phone and online. The data extraction is based on when the claim receipt was recorded.