

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2011-12 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** 1

**Question No:** 99

**Topic:** Income Management in the Northern Territory

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

At 1 January 2012 provide:

- the numbers of people on income management in the NT (ie. compulsory and voluntary),
- the number of people that have recently started income management (since 1 July 2010) ie. voluntary and compulsory,
- the number of people who have exited voluntary income management,
- the number of people who have been granted exemptions from income management by payment type, including reasons for exemptions.

Please separate this data by Indigenous/non-Indigenous recipients.

**Answer:** The data below is from the closest available date which is 30 December 2011.

- a) At 30 December 2011, a total of 17,215 people were on Income Management in the Northern Territory.
  - Voluntary Income Management – 4,200 people (98.5% Indigenous, 1.5% Non-Indigenous\*)
  - Vulnerable Welfare Payment Recipient Measure – 179 people \*\*
  - Child Protection Income Management – 49 people \*\*
  - Disengaged Youth Measure – 4,093 people (88.6% Indigenous, 11.4% Non-Indigenous\*)
  - Long Term Welfare Payment Recipient Measure – 8,694 people (87.3% Indigenous, 21.7% Non-Indigenous\*)

\* Includes people who chose not to disclose whether they were from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background.

\*\* To avoid identifying individuals, figures of less than 20 have been suppressed.

Data Source: Department of Human Services Administrative Data as at 30 December 2011.

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- b) At 30 December 2011, approximately 4,345 people are currently on Income Management, who started on income management on or after 1 July 2010.

Initiative	Non Indigenous	Indigenous	Grand Total
Compulsory Income Management	1,436	1,869	3,305
Child Protection	85	60	145
Cape York	<20	79	N/A
Voluntary Income Management	238	546	784
Vulnerable Income Management	<20	<20	21

Note – this is a count of customers who are being Income Managed. This does not take into account the people who have exited between 1/7/10 and 30/12/11. This is the latest episode of Income Management. If a customer went ‘OFF’ Income Management for one day a new episode will begin.

- c) At 30 December 2011, a total of 2,312 people had exited Voluntary Income Management. Of them, 224 people were non-Indigenous and 2,088 were Indigenous. Note: this is a count of people who were not being income managed at 30 December 2011. If a person had exited Voluntary Income Management but was subsequently income managed via another measure, they were not counted.
- d) Under the legislative provisions, only recipients of Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance or Parenting Payment (Single or Partnered) can be placed on income management under the Disengaged Youth or Long Term Welfare Recipient measures. Moreover, only full time students in receipt of Youth Allowance require income management exemptions, as the other payments directed to full time students (ABSTUDY and Austudy) are not subject to income management under these measures. At 30 December 2011, there were 878 people who were automatically exempt from income management due to being either a full time student or apprentice. There were also 706 ABSTUDY recipients (all Indigenous) and 86 Austudy recipients (all non-Indigenous) on 30 December 2011. The breakdown of people who had been granted exemptions is below:
- Parenting requirements – 1,504 granted (32.3% Indigenous, 67.8% Non-Indigenous\*)
  - Full time student\*\*\* - 869 granted (6.8% Indigenous, 93.2% Non-Indigenous\*)
  - Regular Paid work – 67 granted\*\*
  - Full time new apprentices – 9 granted\*\*
  - Special Benefit – 5 granted\*\*

\* Includes people who chose not to disclose whether they were from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Background.

\*\* To avoid identifying individuals, figures of less than 20 have been suppressed.

\*\*\* As noted above, full time student’s receiving ABSTUDY or Austudy are not included in this number.

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