

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

### ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 27 FEBRUARY 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Department of Human Services

**Topic:** Carer Allowance (Child)

**Question reference number:** HS 26

**Senator:** Siewert

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 24 April 2014

**Number of pages:** 2

#### **Question:**

- a) How many people receive Carer Allowance (Child) who are not in receipt of income support payment?
- b) Provide a breakdown of this by state and territory, gender, Indigenous status.
- c) What is the cost of providing this payment to people not in receipt of an income support payment?
- d) What are the costs of imposing a means test on this payment?

#### **Answer:**

- a) There were 79,125 people who were in receipt of Carer Allowance (Child) as of December 2013 who were not in receipt of an income support payment.
- b) A breakdown of this customer cohort by state/territory, gender and indigenous status is in the tables below. Please note these breakdowns exclude recipients of income support and Carer Allowance Health Care Card only recipients. Recipients who qualify based on providing care for both an Adult and Child Care receiver are included in the count. Finally, Carer Allowance (Adult) and (child) customers appear in the data tables for Questions on Notice HS 26 and HS 27, therefore tables from these questions should not be added together.

<b>State/Territory</b>	<b>Number</b>
Australian Capital Territory	1,335
New South Wales	24,887
Northern Territory	562
Queensland	15,815
South Australia	6,090
Tasmania	1,385
Victoria	22,340
Western Australia	6,667
Unknown*	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>79,125</b>

\* *'Unknown' is the default indicator for people who live overseas and those without a valid address who therefore cannot be assigned to a boundary (Local Government Area, Commonwealth Electoral Division etc.).*

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Number</b>
Female	73,240
Male	5,885
Total	79,125

<b>Indigenous Status</b>	<b>Number</b>
Indigenous	1,121
Non Indigenous	74,954
Unknown*	3,050
Total	79,125

\* *'Unknown' is the default indicator for people who do not identify as either Indigenous or Non Indigenous*

- c) The funding for the Department of Human Services does not identify an average cost for Carer Allowance for people who are not on income support payments separately from people who are in receipt of one or more income support payments.
- d) Carer Allowance (Child) is not means tested. To provide a costing on imposing a means test would be better directed to the Parliamentary Budget Office.