

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

#### Department of Human Services

**Topic:** Carer Allowance (Adult)

**Question reference number:** HS 27

**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 (Adult) 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 106,396 people who were in receipt of Carer Allowance (Adult) 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	1,524
New South Wales	35,855
Northern Territory	498
Queensland	21,087
South Australia	7,983
Tasmania	2,345
Victoria	28,561
Western Australia	8,434
Unknown*	109
<b>Total</b>	<b>106,396</b>

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

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Number</b>
Female	81,924
Male	24,472
Total	106,396

<b>Indigenous Status</b>	<b>Number</b>
Indigenous	1,260
Non Indigenous	90,968
Unknown*	14,168
Total	106,396

\* *'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 (Adult) is not means tested. To provide a costing on imposing a means test would be better directed to the Parliamentary Budget Office.