

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 27 FEBRUARY 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Early Release of Superannuation Benefits Programme

Question reference number: HS 36

Senator: Siewart

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

For the last two financial years: how many people made a claim for early release of superannuation under compassionate grounds?

- Provide a breakdown by age, gender and payment type.
- How many claims were successful and unsuccessful?
- What were the total amount of funds released, and the average amount released?
- Provide details of main reasons for release of funds.

Answer:

- The table below itemises the number of applications by grounds (payment type). The programme does not routinely capture age and gender data. To provide a breakdown age and gender data would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Ground	2011-12	2012-13
Medical Treatment and Transport	4,707	5,157
Mortgage	9,521	8,001
Modifications	509	836
Funeral and Palliative Care	941	1,035
Consistent with one of the above	292	688
Multiple Grounds	1,421	2,307
Total applications received	17,391	18,024

- The table below itemises the number of applications approved and declined.

	2011-12	2012-13
Applications approved in full or in part	11,346*	11,510*
Applications declined	11,713*	9,324*

*NB: The total of applications received is lower than the number of approved and declined applications as multiple determinations can occur within the one application. The total may also include decisions made on applications which were received in the previous financial year.

- c) The table below itemises the total amount of funds released and the average amount released:

	2011-12	2012-13
Amount approved for release	\$153,674,964	\$145,517,285
Average amount released per approval	\$13,544	\$12,643

- d) The two main reasons (grounds) for early release of superannuation benefits on compassionate grounds for financial year 2011-12 and 2012-13 were mortgage assistance and medical treatment.