

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2015-16 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments

Question No: SQ16-000154

Topic: Changes to Newly Arrived Resident's Waiting Period

Hansard page: Written

Senator Claire Moore asked:

1. What is the expected saving over 10 years?
2. How many people will this affect?
3. What type of visas are they on?
4. Can you please break down the saving by each payment:
 - Newstart Allowance;
 - Youth Allowance;
 - Austudy Payment;
 - Carer Payments;
 - Sickness Allowance;
 - Special Benefit; and,
 - Other payments.
5. What is the likely gender split based on past trends?
6. Does this measure place spouses in a more vulnerable position given the safety net has been withdrawn, especially new spouses in a new country?
7. There are differences between skilled and family migrants. Skilled migrants are seen as economic policy while family migration is a social program. This is the rationale for providing differences in NARWP. Has the Department undertaken any research to examine whether this change will have a negative impact on new migrants' settlement experiences? 8.
8. On their labour market participation? On their social welfare?
9. Have any stakeholders provided feedback to the Department on the proposed change?

Answer:

1. Estimated whole of government saving over the forward estimates is approximately \$225 million.
2. Approximately 5,700 people per year.
3. Primarily permanent partner visa holders and a small number of child visas.
4. Payment types
 - Newstart Allowance: \$133.039 million save
 - Youth Allowance: \$29.419 million save
 - Austudy Payment: \$7.872 million save
 - Carer Payments: \$20.713 million save
 - Sickness Allowance: \$0.868 million save
 - Special Benefit: \$55.613 million cost
 - Other payments: \$84.6 million save

5. Based on Department of Immigration and Border Protection information:

Female: 76 per cent

Male 24 per cent.

6. Family members would retain the exemption from the 104-week newly arrived resident's waiting period for Special Benefit if they have experienced both financial hardship and a substantial change in circumstances beyond their control after arrival in Australia. Family assistance payments may also be available if the person has a dependent child.

7. No.

8. For the purposes of estimating savings, the Department undertook analysis of previous cohorts that were granted social security payments via the family member exemption.

9. Yes.