

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES - 29 MAY 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Non-citizens Receiving Payments

Question reference number: HS 19

Senator: Fifield

Type of question: Hansard page 106

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Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) Senator FIFIELD: As I said before, I will put forward those cameos, about the different residency requirements for different payments that we were talking about before. This may be another way of approaching the issue: it is whether the department records information that way about the number of noncitizens who are paid family tax benefit part A. Is that information that would be readily to hand or would you need to take it on notice?
Mr Sandison: We will take that with those other questions. We can investigate that, yes.
- b) Senator FIFIELD: How many of those noncitizens have been overpaid or have incurred a debt?
- c)How many noncitizens are paid the DSP?
- d)And how many noncitizens are paid Newstart?

Answer:

Note: Senator Fifield's Office has provided clarification that by "non-citizen" he means "those who are not permanent residents of Australia (and New Zealand)". The Senator is also seeking information relating to the 2010-11 and 2011-12 financial years.

- a) Yes.

Excluding New Zealanders, as at 29 June 2012, there were 2,176 Temporary Visa holders residing in Australia who were paid FTB Part A.

Excluding New Zealanders, as at 24 June 2011, there were 2,459 Temporary Visa holders residing in Australia who were paid FTB Part A.

- b) The following table shows the number of Temporary Visa Holders who have had Family Tax Benefit (FTB) debts raised in the 2010-11 and 2011-12 financial years (this includes both FTB Part A and FTB Part B debts as the Department is unable to separate this debt data). The overpayment period may have occurred in previous financial years.

Table: Customers with Temporary Visas who have had FTB Debts Raised

	FY 2010-11	FY 2011-12
Visa Type	No. of Customers	No. of Customers
444	11,571	12,706
Other	3,030	3,842
TOTAL	14,601	16,548

Note: sub-class 444 temporary visa holders refers to New Zealand citizens.

- c) Disability Support Pension is payable in limited circumstances to people who are not permanent residents of Australia, subject to specific conditions.

Where eligibility is established under one of the specific conditions, the person is no longer required to be a permanent resident of Australia and ongoing residence information is not recorded on the Department's processing systems. The Department is unable to extract information that identifies the number of people receiving a Disability Support Pension under these conditions.

- d) Newstart Allowance is payable only to people who are permanent residents of Australia (this excludes New Zealanders under some special circumstances).