

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 76

Topic: Aged Pensioners

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Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

In relation to the latest number of Age Pension recipients, can you please provide advice or a link to where the figure of 3.3 million came from?

Answer:

The population of senior Australians is sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2008, Population Projections, Australia, 2006 to 2101, 'Table B9. Population projections, By age and sex, Australia – Series B', Time Series Spreadsheets, cat. no. 3222.0, released 4 September 2008. Pension age has risen to 64 years and six months for women and 65 years for men, so the new population of senior Australians is the sum of 1,500,799 men aged 65 years or more plus 1,817,031 women aged 64 years and six months or more, summing to 3,317,830 persons in total, rounded to 3.3 million. The table below shows the proportion of this population who receive the Age Pension.

Senior Australians (men aged 65 years or more, women aged 64 years, 6 months or more), March 2012		
	Number	Proportion of Senior Australians
Age Pension - Maximum rate	1,357,800	40.9
Age Pension - Part rate income tested	635,000	19.1
Age Pension - Part rate assets tested	272,700	8.2
<i>Sub-total: Age Pension</i>	<i>2,265,500</i>	<i>68.3</i>
Service Pension and Income Support Supplement	197,500	6.0
Other income support recipients of pension age	69,400	2.1
Commonwealth Seniors Health Care Card holders	287,900	8.7
Other	497,500	15.0
Total	3,317,800	100.0