Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

2013-14 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 1 Question No: 143

Topic: Schoolkids Bonus

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Senator Cash asked:

In terms of the Schoolkids Bonus, can you provide the numbers that the original estimate was based on and the numbers that the actual was based on in terms of recipients of Family Tax Benefit (FTB)?

Answer:

The original estimate for Schoolkids Bonus payment for 2012-13 was 2.165 million and based on the entitlement of the former Education Tax Refund (ETR) Payment.

This initial estimate was subsequently revised upwards due to:

- the inclusion of children eligible under the ETR Payment administrative scheme (around 174,000 in total); and
- growth in the FTB Part A population which increased the number of families eligible for Schoolkids Bonus (around 130,000 in total).

Combined these factors contributed to the estimated SKB population increased to around 2.469 million children*.

Note: * This figure may overstate the SKB population as top-up payments have resulted in some children being counted twice.