

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 3 JUNE 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Payment by Cheque/Budget Measure - Efficiencies

Question reference number: HS 40 – Supplementary information

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 24 July 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

a) How many people are currently paid by cheque? Provide a breakdown by payment type and age.

Answer – previously supplied

a) Approximately 83,000 cheques were issued in 2013-14. Data regarding the number of individual customers receiving cheques by payment type and age will be provided to the committee when available.

Answer – supplementary information

a) There were 2,113 individual customers paid by system cheque and 57 by manual cheque issued at a service centre in the fortnight 1 June 2015 to 14 June 2015 inclusive, as outlined in the table below. A more detailed breakdown by payment type is not available as several income support payments can be made through the same payment system.

Payment Type	Age in Years				
	Under 25	25-44	45-64	65 and over	Total
Abstudy	42	NIL	NIL	NIL	42
Carer Allowance	<20	<20	<20	<20	34
Family Assistance	<20	61	46	<20	121
Flexible Support Payment	NIL	<20	<20	NIL	<20
Income Management	<20	<20	<20	NIL	<20
Mobility Allowance	NIL	<20	23	<20	38
Newstart System *	497	509	94	<20	N/A
Pension System **	21	133	163	467	784
Parenting payment	<20	<20	NIL	NIL	<20
Total	590	745	348	487	2,170

The above table contain fields '<20' and 'N/A' The '<20' value indicates the total number of customers in that category is less than 20. This is to ensure customer confidentiality. The 'N/A' value indicates not available in a cell where it may be possible to estimate the customer numbers due to other low value cells involved.

** Newstart System – includes Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance, Sickness Allowance, Special Benefit, Widow Allowance, Austudy, Partner Allowance payments*

*** Pension System – includes Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment, Wife Pension, Parenting Payment – Single, Pensioner Education Supplement payments*