

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

Outcome Number: 2.5 Child Care Benefit

Question No: SQ15-000432

Topic: CCB threshold freeze

Hansard page: Written

Senator Lines, Sue asked:

With reference to the Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Child Care Measures) Bill (No. 2) 2014 currently before the House:

- 1 - Have the Child Care Benefit income thresholds been administratively frozen in anticipation of the Bill passing the Parliament? If so, when were they frozen? Who authorised it? Did the Minister? When was approval given?
- 2 - When did the threshold freezes take effect? How many people have been impacted by the threshold freezes? Please break this down by \$10,000 income band?
- 3 - What if the Bill does not pass the Parliament? How will the Department deal with the possible underpayment of CCB? Will additional catch-up payments need to be provided to families or services?
- 4 - Is the Government still committed to implementing this measure?

Answer:

1. 2. & 3. Legislation to enact the 2014-15 Child Care Benefit maintain income threshold measure did not pass through Parliament before 1 July 2015 and therefore, the Child Care Benefit income thresholds have been indexed for the 2015-16 financial year.

4. The Department is unable to provide an answer to this question as it involves the deliberations of Government.