

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

Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments

Question No: SQ15-000581

Topic: Savings Calculations and Assumptions used by DHS

Hansard page: Written

Senator Siewert, Rachel asked:

If a single adult on the maximum rate of Newstart is found to have not been reporting income of \$200 per week, and the debt was discovered three month after they reported their income, what future “savings” are extrapolated?

Answer:

If the incorrect payment was for a discrete period that had ended there would be no future savings; however a debt would be raised.

If the incorrect payment was ongoing and detected through an intervention then the future savings extrapolated would be \$1,470. (This amount is calculated using the income test for Newstart as outlined in *A Guide to Australian Government Payments*, projected forward over 14 fortnights representing the estimated period that the incorrect payment would have continued if the intervention had not occurred).