

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - 18 OCTOBER 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Partner Payments

Question reference number: HS 59

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written question

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 2

Question:

By state, broken down by indigenous and non-indigenous status in 2011-12 financial year, please provide as a total:

- a) How many member of a couple assessments were made?
- b) How many people are on partnered rates of payments?
- c) How many people are on the prison partnered rate of payment?

Answer:

- a) Member of a Couple assessments are not transactions captured by DHS systems.
- b) Partner rates of payments apply to the following payments (noting portfolio responsibility for these payments sits with: the Departments of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations; the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; and the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education):
 - Age Pension;
 - Carer Payment;
 - Disability Support Pension;
 - Special Benefit;
 - Wife Pension;
 - Newstart Allowance;
 - Parenting Payment Partnered;
 - Partner Allowance;
 - Sickness Allowance;
 - Youth Allowance (other);
 - Austudy Payment;
 - Youth Allowance; and
 - Youth Allowance (student).

Table A: partnered payments by State, by Indigenous status.

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown	Total
Australian Capital Territory	103	13,868	2,015	15,986
New South Wales	8,609	552,969	79,243	640,821
Northern Territory	9,842	4,119	465	14,426
Queensland	10,242	315,783	47,019	373,044
South Australia	2,152	144,126	29,433	175,711
Tasmania	1,497	53,245	8,938	63,680
Victoria	1,665	429,742	59,556	490,963
Western Australia	6,009	134,075	19,276	159,360
Unknown	26	36,372	12,210	48,608
Total	40,145	1,684,299	258,155	1,982,599

c) Table B: prison partnered payments, by state, by Indigenous status.

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Unknown	Total
Australian Capital Territory	<20	<20	<20	<20
New South Wales	38	250	<20	*
Northern Territory	197	<20	<20	204
Queensland	87	130	<20	*
South Australia	21	64	<20	*
Tasmania	<20	<20	<20	<20
Victoria	<20	156	<20	179
Western Australia	115	63	<20	*
Unknown	<20	<20	<20	<20
Total	471	697	60	1,228

* Number suppressed as it will identify the actual number in column 3.

Note: The information provided in Tables A and B is data drawn by the Department of Human Services from a standard data set agreed by relevant departments in order to ensure consistency. The standard data set does not provide for extraction by payment.