

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - 18 OCTOBER 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Human Services Portfolio

**Topic:** Newstart Allowance

**Question reference number:** HS 133

**Senator:** Back

**Type of question:** Written question

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

**Number of pages:** 2

#### Question:

- a) How many recipients of the Newstart allowance were there in 2011-12? Please break this down by state and territory.
- b) What was the total expenditure on the Newstart allowance in 2011-12 on a state and territory basis?
- c) How much was the Newstart allowance as a percentage of the total Centrelink budget?

#### Answer:

- a) Recipients of Newstart Allowance as at 29 June 2012:

<b>State</b>	<b>Newstart Allowance</b>
Australian Capital Territory	4,095
New South Wales	174,575
Northern Territory	9,773
Queensland	117,329
South Australia	49,644
Tasmania	18,225
Victoria	132,695
Western Australia	43,282
Unknown	155
<b>Total</b>	<b>549,773</b>

- b) The total value of payments made by the Department of Human Services for Newstart Allowance in 2011-12 was \$6,600,470,000. Payment data is not readily held in a format that enables a state and territory breakup and to compile this information would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.

- c) Newstart Allowance represents 6.64 per cent of the third party payments made by the Department of Human Services from and on behalf of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education, the Attorney-General's Department, the Department of Infrastructure and Transport, the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in regard to the Centrelink Master Program as detailed in the Human Services Portfolio Budget Statements 2012-13 (Budget Related Paper No. 1.11 page 17).