

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

#### Human Services Portfolio

**Topic:** Child Care Benefit

**Question reference number:** HS 134

**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 were there of the Child Care benefit in 2011-12? Please break this down by state and territory.
- b) What was the total expenditure on the Child Care Allowance in 2011-12 on a state and territory basis?
- c) How much was the Child care benefit as a percentage of the total Centrelink budget?

#### **Answer:**

- a) Recipients for Child Care Benefit in 2011-12:

<b>State/Territory</b>	<b>Number of Recipients</b>
Australian Capital Territory	11,312
New South Wales	194,009
Northern Territory	4,282
Queensland	123,320
South Australia	36,003
Tasmania	12,004
Victoria	121,683
Western Australia	41,490
Unknown	2,237
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>546,380</b>

#### Notes

- The information provided in the above table is prior to reconciliation and populations will change once the annual financial reconciliation process occurs. The data should not be considered as representing full Child Care Benefit population as it does not include people claiming a lump sum. Customers have two financial years following the end of an entitlement year in which to lodge a lump sum claim. As such, post reconciliation figures for the 2011-12 financial year are not able to be provided until after two years.

- Child Care Benefit entitlement is dependent on the family's income for the relevant financial year. Reconciliation is done upon the lodgement of the family's tax return to determine eligibility and payment entitlement.
- b) The total value of payments made by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations for Child Care Benefit in 2011-12 was \$2.32 billion. Of this figure, the Department of Human Services paid \$181.4 million. Payment data is not readily held in a format that enables a state and territory breakup. To compile this information would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- c) The Child Care Benefit allowance paid by the Department of Human Services represents 0.18 per cent of the third party payments made by the Department 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).