

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

#### Human Services Portfolio

**Topic:** Carer Payment and Carer Allowance Recipients

**Question reference number:** HS 143

**Senator:** Fifield

**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 people received, by month, Carer Payment in 2011-12 while on a temporary absence from Australia not exceeding 13 weeks?
- b) How many recipients were absent of Carer Payment in 2011-12 for:
  - 1) One week?
  - 2) Two weeks?
  - 3) One month?
  - 4) Six weeks?
  - 5) Two months?
  - 6) Thirteen weeks?
- c) How many people received, by month, Carer Payment between July and October 2012 while on a temporary absence from Australia not exceeding 13 weeks?
- d) How many recipients of Carer Payment between July and October 2012 were absent for:
  - 1) One week?
  - 2) Two weeks?
  - 3) One month?
  - 4) Six weeks?
  - 5) Two months?
  - 6) Thirteen weeks?

**Answer:**

- a) The Department of Human Services does not maintain figures on overseas absences on a monthly basis. The total number of overseas trips in 2011-12 for customers receiving Carer Payment was 27,150. This figure contains customers who have travelled overseas more than once during the period.

- b) The Department does not hold information on the length of absences requested. However, the Department does have the following information on absences in 2011-12:

<b>Length of absence</b>	<b>Number of trips</b>
Up to 2 weeks	9,502
2 – 3 weeks	4,398
3 – 4 weeks	2,867
4 – 8 weeks	6,401
8 – 13 weeks	3,340
13 – 26 weeks	578
26 – 52 weeks	64

- c) The Department does not maintain figures on overseas absences on a monthly basis. The total number of overseas trips in 2012-13 (1 July 2012 - 10 November 2012) is 9,814. This figure contains customers who have travelled overseas more than once during the period.
- d) The Department does not hold information on the length of absences requested. However, the Department does have the following information on absences in the period 1 July 2012 to 10 November 2012:

<b>Length of absence</b>	<b>Number of trips</b>
Up to 2 weeks	3,776
2 – 3 weeks	1,675
3 – 4 weeks	1,082
4 – 8 weeks	2,243
8 – 13 weeks	965
13 – 26 weeks	73