

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - 21 NOVEMBER 2013 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Department of Human Services

**Topic:** Payment by Cheque

**Question reference number:** HS 61

**Senator:** Siewert

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 24 January 2014

**Number of pages:** 2

#### **Question:**

For 2012-13:

- a) How many people receive their income support payments by cheque?
- b) Provide a breakdown by payment type of the numbers currently paid by cheque.
- c) What is the cost of this method of payment?
- d) How many cheques were written for income management-related reasons 2012-13? What was the cost of this?

#### **Answer:**

- a) Data regarding the number of customers receiving income support payments via cheque is not available. There were 91,111 cheque payments made in 2012-13. Some people may have received more than one payment via cheque.
- b) Numbers by payment type are not available as several income support payments can be made through the same payment system (see Newstart System and Pension System in the table below). The number of cheque payments made, by payment system, is detailed in the table below.

<b>Payment System</b>	<b>Number</b>
Abstudy	1,325
Assistance for Isolated Children	14
Carer Allowance	1,858
Dad and Partner Pay	<10
Emergency and General Assistance	20
Family Assistance	8,590
Flexible Support Payment /disaster payments	141
Mobility Allowance	1,890
Newstart System - including Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance, Sickness Allowance, Special Benefit, Widow Allowance, Austudy, Partner Allowance	30,619

Pension System – including Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment, Wife Pension, Parenting Payment – Single,	44,898
Pensioner Education Supplement	47
Parenting Payment Partnered	1,111
Paid Parental Leave	<10
Commonwealth Seniors Health Card	<10

- c) The cost per cheque is \$0.97.
- d) There were 592 cheques produced for Income Management reasons. At \$0.97 per cheque, the total cost in 2012-13 was \$574.24.