

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 9

Question No: 362

Topic: Families and children

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

Can you please provide data on length of time people are on Newstart? How does the department collect this data? Please also provide the estimated costs, over the forward estimates, of the above payment.

Answer:

The table below provides data on the length of time recipients spend on Newstart Allowance.

| Newstart Recipients by Duration on Newstart Allowance as at 27 September 2013 | |
|--|---------------|
| Total Recipients | 659,829 |
| Under 1 year | 328,232 (50%) |
| 1-2 years | 128,669 (20%) |
| 2-5 years | 143,134 (22%) |
| 5 years + | 59,794 (9%) |
| Average (weeks) | 102 |

Source: Department of Human Services administrative data
 Recipients of Newstart Allowance who are determined to be current (i.e. entitled to be paid) on the Centrelink payment system and not in receipt of CDEP Participation Supplement or a zero rate of payment.

The Department extracts data from the administrative data sources of the Department of Human Services, who collect the information for the assessment and administration of payments and services.

The estimated cost of Newstart Allowance over the forward estimates is as follows:

| | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Newstart Allowance - Expense (\$million) | 9151.492 | 9908.175 | 8590.939 | 8472.837 |

Source: 2013-14 MYEFO