

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2014-15 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 364

Topic: Family Tax Benefit B

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Brown asked:

The following questions pertain to Question on Notice No. 85 (from 2014-15 Budget Estimates).

Can the Committee take from that response that the Department is in fact capable of providing this information to the Committee?

Has the Minister ever requested this advice from the Department?

Did the Department include this analysis in any advice it provided to the Minister or any other department either before or after the Budget?

Can the Department please reconsider its response and provide the following information to the Committee, before the next round of Estimates in February 2015:

How many families and how many children will no longer receive FTB B as a result of this measure, for each year over the forward estimates period, broken down by state and territory totals, federal electorate and age of child and family income bracket?

Answer

Can the Committee take from that response that the Department is in fact capable of providing this information to the Committee?

Preparation of data for this question / part of the question is considered an unreasonable diversion of resource. For example it may involve the construction and reporting of close to 18,000 outputs. Additional complex coding is also required to avoid double counting of those families with children across multiples ages and/or shared care arrangements, when breaking the data down to electorate, age of child and number of children per family. Once the outputs are produced, many of the populations may be too small and would have to also undergo additional redaction and/or confidentialisation processes.

Has the Minister ever requested this advice from the Department?

The Department is unable to comment on advice requested by the Minister.

Did the Department include this analysis in any advice it provided to the Minister or any other department either before or after the Budget?

The Department is unable to comment on advice provided to Government.

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How many families and how many children will no longer receive FTB B as a result of this measure, for each year over the forward estimates period, broken down by state and territory totals, federal electorate and age of child and family income bracket?

The Department is unable to provide this information as it would require a significant diversion of resources.