

## **Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 22 OCTOBER 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

#### **Department of Human Services**

**Topic:** Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

**Question reference number:** HS 108

**Senator:** Cameron

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 11 December 2015

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

How many Seniors were excluded from the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card as a result of the new income test and portability provisions?

#### **Answer:**

From 1 January 2015, deemed income has been calculated from the current balance of account-based income streams of Commonwealth Seniors Health Card (CSHC) holders.

Since 1 January 2015, 148 customers had their CSHC cancelled and 215 customers had their CSHC claim rejected because they had deemed income from account based income streams included in their assessment of income for the CSHC and their total income then exceeded the income threshold applicable for their circumstances.

From 1 January 2015, CSHC holders were able to temporarily leave Australia for up to 19 weeks before their CSHC was affected. Since 1 January 2015, 156 customers had their CSHC cancelled for being temporarily absent from Australia for more than 19 weeks.