

## **Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

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

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

**Topic:** Crisis Payment

**Question reference number:** HS 216

**Senator:** Siewert

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 23 December 2015

**Number of pages:** 3

#### **Question:**

For 2014-15:

- a) How many claims for Crisis Payment were successful?
- b) How many claims for Crisis Payment were rejected?
- c) How many claims for Crisis Payment were made?
- d) At October 2015, provide a breakdown of Crisis Payment recipients by:
  - 1) payment type;
  - 2) gender;
  - 3) age;
  - 4) reason for grant;
  - 5) Indigenous/non-Indigenous status; and
  - 6) state and territory of recipient.
- e) What was the cost of outlays on Crisis Payment for 2014-15?

#### **Answer:**

- a), b) and c) 71,954 claims for Crisis Payment were made of which 67,536 were successful and 4,418 were unsuccessful.
- d) Crisis payment is a one off payment, equal to one week's payment at a customer's existing income support payment rate. Therefore, rather than point in time data, a breakdown of Crisis Payment recipients for the period 1 July 2015 to 31 October 2015 is shown in the tables below.

1) Crisis Payment recipients by payment type from 1 July 2015 to 31 October 2015

| <b>Crisis Payment by payment type</b> | <b>Number of Crisis Payments granted</b> |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Newstart Allowance                    | 14,000                                   |
| Disability Support Pension            | 3,741                                    |
| Youth Allowance                       | 2,193                                    |
| Parenting Payment (Single)            | 2,147                                    |
| Carer Payment                         | 320                                      |
| Parenting Payment (Partnered)         | 265                                      |
| Age Pension                           | 191                                      |
| Special Benefit                       | 60                                       |
| Abstudy                               | 39                                       |
| Austudy                               | 36                                       |
| Unknown Payment Type                  | < 20*                                    |
| Widow Allowance                       | < 20*                                    |
| Sickness Allowance                    | < 20*                                    |
| Wife (Age Pensioner)                  | < 20*                                    |
| Wife (Disability Support Pension)     | < 20*                                    |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>23,037</b>                            |

\* **Confidentiality Provision:** All cells that have a value of less than 20, including zero, have been changed to display '<20'.

2) Crisis Payment recipients by gender from 1 July 2015 to 31 October 2015

| <b>Gender</b> | <b>Number of Crisis Payments granted</b> |
|---------------|------------------------------------------|
| Female        | 7,928                                    |
| Male          | 15,109                                   |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>23,037</b>                            |

3) Crisis Payment recipients by age from 1 July 2015 to 31 October 2015

| <b>Age</b>   | <b>Number of Crisis Payments granted</b> |
|--------------|------------------------------------------|
| Unknown      | < 20*                                    |
| <15          | < 20*                                    |
| 15 - 24      | 4,887                                    |
| 25 - 34      | 8,608                                    |
| 35 - 44      | 6,322                                    |
| 45 - 54      | 2,402                                    |
| 55 - 59      | 391                                      |
| 60 - 64      | 209                                      |
| >=65         | 206                                      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>23,037</b>                            |

\* **Confidentiality Provision:** All cells that have a value of less than 20, including zero, have been changed to display '<20'.

4) Crisis Payment recipients by reason for grant from 1 July 2015 to 31 October 2015

| <b>Crisis Payment category</b>            | <b>Number of Crisis Payments granted</b> |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Prison Release                            | 15,007                                   |
| Domestic Violence - Victim left home      | 4,794                                    |
| Humanitarian Entrant                      | 1,703                                    |
| Other                                     | 826                                      |
| Domestic Violence - Victim remain in home | 474                                      |
| Domestic Violence - Alleged Perpetrator   | 233                                      |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>23,037</b>                            |

5) Crisis Payment recipients by Indigenous/non-Indigenous status from 1 July 2015 to 30 September 2015

*The Department of Human Services compiles data for Crisis Payment made to Indigenous customers on a quarterly basis. The data below is for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 September 2015.*

| <b>Crisis Payment recipients by Indigenous status from 1 July 2015 to 30 September 2015</b> | <b>Crisis Payment recipients by non-Indigenous status from 1 July 2015 to 30 September 2015</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4,655                                                                                       | 18,382                                                                                          |

6) Crisis Payment recipients by state from 1 July 2015 to 31 October 2015

| <b>Geographical state</b>    | <b>Number of Crisis Payments granted</b> |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| New South Wales              | 6,434                                    |
| Queensland                   | 5,885                                    |
| Victoria                     | 4,304                                    |
| Western Australia            | 2,579                                    |
| South Australia              | 2,026                                    |
| Northern Territory           | 929                                      |
| Tasmania                     | 634                                      |
| Australian Capital Territory | 244                                      |
| Invalid*                     | 2                                        |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>23,037</b>                            |

\*This indicates that the customers' addresses could not be mapped to a valid State at the time the data was extracted. This can occur if a customer was temporarily overseas or did not have a recognised, geographically valid Australian address recorded.

- e) There is no specific programme outlay for Crisis Payment. Outlays for Crisis Payment are attached to individual primary social security programmes. In the financial year 2014-15, the total amount of Crisis Payment paid to customers was \$18,865,226.68.