

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2015-16 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments

Question No: SQ15-000916

Topic: Single Parents on Newstart Allowance

Hansard page: Written

Senator Siewert, Rachel asked:

Update Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment and Workplace Relations, Question on Notice, Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012013, DEEWR Question No. EW0547_13.

Answer:

As at 28 December 2012, there were 105,931 Grandfathered Parenting Payment Single recipients. Of these, 63,016 were affected by the changes to Parenting Payment Single on 1 January 2013. Between 1 January 2013 and 26 June 2015 an additional 13,594 previously grandfathered recipients have been cancelled from Parenting Payment Single due to their youngest child being aged eight or more (total of 76,610).

Of the 76,610 formerly grandfathered recipients cancelled from Parenting Payment Single due to the age of their youngest child, 53,756 were still receiving income support as at 26 June 2015. Current data is not available regarding other recipients so the requested updated cross tabulation of recipients' circumstances relates only to these recipients. This information has been provided in the tables below.

In order to protect the privacy of individuals, populations less than twenty are reported as "<20" and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are not provided "np".

Table 1: Recipients by State and Indigenous status

	Indigenous	Not Indigenous	Total
ACT	37	414	451
New South Wales	1821	16228	18049
Northern Territory	341	144	485
Queensland	1224	9247	10471
South Australia	325	4331	4656
Tasmania	103	1433	1536
Victoria	351	13175	13526
Western Australia	633	3947	4580
Unknown	0	2	2
Total	4835	48921	53756

Table 2: Number of recipients with fortnightly earnings above and below the Newstart Allowance Principal Carer taper cut-out point as at 26/06/2015.

	Total
No Earnings	30312
Earnings under \$1528.25	21591
Earnings \$1528.25 or more	1853
Total	53756

Table 3: Recipients by remoteness area

	Total
Major Cities of Australia	34137
Inner Regional Australia	12666
Outer Regional Australia	5631
Remote Australia	672
Very Remote Australia	540
Not Assigned to a Remoteness Area	110
Total	53756

Table 4: Recipients by number of principal care children.

	Total
0	15872
1	25732
2	9364
3	2272
4	433
5	65
6	<20
7	<20
9	<20
Total	53756

Includes Principal Care Children for Newstart Allowance, Parenting Payment, Youth Allowance. Recipients may have other children for whom they are not recorded as the principal carer.

Table 5: Recipients by those receiving Carer Allowance

	Total
Not Receiving Carer Allowance	47487
Receiving Carer Allowance	6269
Total	53756

As recipients may receive Carer Allowance while caring for both children and adults, totals of table 6 and 7 below exceed the total number of recipients receiving Carer Allowance.

Table 6: Recipients by number of children paid on Carer Allowance

	Total
1	3601
2	256
3	np
4	<20
Total	3885

Table 7: Recipients by number of adults for whom Carer Allowance is paid

	Total
1	2425
2	181
Total	2606

Table 8: Recipients by vulnerability indicator

	Total
Total With One or More Vulnerability Indicator	4683
Cognitive or Neurological impairment	98
Drug/alcohol dependency which impedes compliance	307
Homeless	174
Illness/injury requiring frequent treatment	1555
Jobseeker in Transition	22
Significant lack of literacy and language skills	145
Nationally approved Vulnerability	<20
Served 8 week Non Payment Period in previous 12 months	<20
Psychiatric problem or Mental Illness	3242
Recent traumatic relationship breakdown	44
Released prisoner (in gaol 14 days+)	28
Significant caring responsibilities	238

Vulnerability indicators are generally only recorded for recipients with Activity Test/Participation Requirements. These data may therefore represent an undercount of recipients with a vulnerability.

Table 9: Recipients by number of vulnerability indicators

	Total
0	49073
1	3660
2	886
3	np
4	<20
Total	53756

Vulnerability indicators are generally only recorded for recipients with Activity Test/Participation Requirements. These data may therefore represent an undercount of recipients with a vulnerability.

Table 10: Recipients by lodgings and earnings

	Current Earnings	No Current Earnings
Board and Lodging	423	619
Defence Force Housing	<20	<20
Free Board	<20	<20
Free Board and Lodgings	30	42
Free Lodgings	<20	<20
Government rent	2640	7177
Lodgings only	641	974
Maintenance fees for Nursing home/ Retirement home	<20	<20
Mooring fees	<20	<20
Net Rent Assessed	24	47
Other Housing Organisation	593	1543
Private rent	11689	13527
Respite Care fees	<20	<20
Site Fees	25	65
Not covered by any of the above	<20	32
No rent paid	7333	6265
Total	23444	30312

Table 11: Recipients by Rent Assistance and Rent Assistance maximum rate

	Total
Total Receiving Rent Assistance	25903
Receiving Maximum Rent Assistance	536
Not Receiving Rent Assistance	27853
Total	53756

Table 12: Recipients by home ownership

	Total
Homeowner	9748
Non-homeowner	44008
Total	53756

Homeowner counts include recipients who are purchasing their home. These recipients cannot be identified separately as this level of information is not required for administrative purposes.

Table 13: Recipients by work capacity

	Total
Partial Capacity to Work (0-29 hours per week)	4281
Full Capacity to Work (30+ hours per week)	49475
Total	53756

Partial Capacity to work counts include recipients assessed as having a work capacity of 0 to 29 hours in the latest current Job Capacity Assessment or Employment Services Assessment i.e. latest assessment accepted within the last two years. Work capacity assessments are generally only conducted for recipients with Activity Test/Participation Requirements. These data may therefore represent an undercount of recipients with a reduced capacity to work.

Table 14: Recipients by partial capacity to work and receipt of Carer Allowance

	Total
Not Receiving Carer Allowance for a Child	3883
Receiving Carer Allowance for a Child	398
Total	4281