

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2014
3 June to 5 June 2014

Department/ Agency: Treasury

Question: BET47

Topic: Pension Budget Parameters

Reference: Hansard page no. 134 and 136, 4 June 2014

Senator: Wong

Question:

47. Senator WONG: Sure. Are you able to tell me the difference in outlays in 2017-18 as between the government policy position and the current indexation arrangements applying the budget parameters?

Senator Cormann: That is a savings number that is in the measure. If you go to page 203 in Budget Paper No.2, it will actually give you exactly that information.

Mr Ray: It is not split between pension type—

Senator WONG: No.

Mr Ray: But the cost is there. You would need to ask the Department of Social Services.

Senator WONG: Because \$300 million in that year aggregates a number of different payments.

Senator Cormann: Sure, but it is across pensions here.

Mr Ray: Yes, across pensions.

Senator WONG: So you want me to go to DSS or can I put it on notice?

Mr Ray: You can put it on notice.

Senator WONG: I would like to disaggregate the 331.

Mr Ray: We will go to DSS for you.

Senator WONG: Thank you.

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CHAIR: Senator Wong, you have a couple of questions you would like to put on notice?

Senator WONG: Yes. I just wanted to make sure—because we spent a lot of time on schools, as Senator Wright has just referenced—that we were clear that my question also related to the hospitals graph.

Mr Ray: Yes, clearly.

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Answer:

47. The Department of Social Services has provided the following disaggregation of the \$331.3 million 2017-18 figure relating to the 2014-15 Budget measure *Index Pension and Pension Equivalent Payments by the Consumer Price Index* (page 203 of Budget Paper No. 2 refers):

Expense	2017-18 (\$m)
Bereavement Allowance	- 0.02
Age Pension	- 177.50
Widow B Pension	- 0.03
Wife Pension (Age)	- 0.33
Disability Support Pension	- 57.36
Carer Payment	- 20.76
Wife Pension (DSP)	- 0.25
Parenting Payment (Single)	- 75.24
<i>DSS Departmental costs</i>	<i>0.18</i>
Total	- 331.31