

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 3 - Employment

DEEWR Question No. EW0145_14

Senator Cash asked on 4 June 2013, Hansard page 54

Question

Income support recipients affected by changes

Senator CASH: How many income support recipients are expected to be affected by the changes, and can you provide a breakdown of this cohort by payment type? Mr Emerson: Yes, I can provide you with a breakdown on that. For 2013-14 I will give you a breakdown of those that are very likely to benefit from this. It is around 150,000 a year, and I will break that down. In Newstart it will be 92,315. We have also broken that down into Newstart Allowance single principal-carer parents. That will be 35,861. For Parenting Payment, partnered, it is 17,983. For Partner Allowance it is 408. For Sickness Allowance it is 702. For Widow Allowance it is 1,811. They are the people who would benefit immediately, in the 2013-14 year, from the increase to the income-free area. Senator CASH: So when I ask how many on income support are expected to be affected by the changes, when you answer the question you say 'affected' equals 'benefited'. Is that correct? Mr Emerson: That is right. Senator CASH: And that is the 150,000. Mr Emerson: That is right. Senator CASH: You said that is for 2013-14. Are there any other figures? Mr Emerson: Yes. I could go down through each of the years in the forward estimates but perhaps— Senator CASH: Could you table the document? Mr Emerson: We will take that on notice.

Answer

The following table provides estimates of the number of allowance recipients who would immediately benefit from the increase to the income-free area from its commencement.

PAYMENT	Population	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Newstart Allowance	Existing	92,315	97,751	88,762	86,283
	New	5,299	5,611	5,095	4,953
Newstart Allowance (single principal carer parents)	Existing	35,861	37,973	34,481	33,518
	New	1,267	1,342	1,219	1,185
Parenting Payment Partnered	Existing	17,983	17,675	17,534	17,353
	New	783	770	764	756
Partner Allowance	Existing	408	73	0	0
	New	0	0	0	0
Sickness Allowance	Existing	702	693	690	696
	New	67	65	64	66
Widow Allowance	Existing	1811	1588	1434	1211
	New	234	205	185	157

Around 650 000 allowance recipients have the potential to benefit if they change their working and earning patterns.