

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

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

Outcome 3 - Employment

DEEWR Question No. EW0158_14

Senator Cash asked on 4 June 2013, Hansard page 60

Question

Widow Allowance

Senator CASH: I turn finally to the widow allowance and similar questions. How many persons received the widow allowance in 2012-13? Are you able to provide a breakdown, which I believe you will need to take notice, of the adjusted taxable income bracket? Mr Emerson: Yes, you are correct on the second question. The number of recipients in March 2013 for widow allowance was 26,636. Senator CASH: You may have to take these on notice as well. How many of these recipients were newly arrived migrants? How many persons receiving the widow allowance in 2012-13 were on a temporary absence from Australia not exceeding 13 weeks? How many recipients of the widow allowance also received the pharmaceuticals allowance? How many recipients of the widow allowance also received the pension supplement? Mr Emerson: They will have to be provided on notice.

Answer

As at 29 March 2013, the number of newly arrived migrant Widow Allowance recipients (i.e. those who are not Australian Citizens and have less than 104 weeks Australian qualifying residence) was 137.

In the 2012–13 financial year to 31 March 2013, the unique number of Widow Allowance recipients paid while overseas was 5342 (recipients current as at date of departure).

In the 2012–13 financial year to 31 March 2013, 22 632 recipients of Widow Allowance were paid Pharmaceutical Allowance.

In the 2012–13 financial year to 31 March 2013, 2988 recipients of Widow Allowance were paid Pension Supplement.

The adjusted taxable income bracket is not applicable to Widow Allowance recipients. Recipients of Widow Allowance are subject to the same income test as Newstart Allowance.