

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome 2 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000152

Senator Lines asked on 01 June 2015 on proof Hansard page 137 and 138

Relates to previous Department of Employment Question No EM1638_15

Question

Fair Entitlements Guarantee

Senator LINES: I will move on to the Fair Entitlements Guarantee. Can you please tell us how many people have received a FEG payment?

Ms Emery: In what time frame?

Senator LINES: Over the 16 weeks, since the election.

Ms Emery: I think we will have to take that on notice.

Senator LINES: I was not expecting you to be able to—

Ms Emery: We probably do not keep figures from the election. We would take it annually.

Senator LINES: Do you keep them yearly?

Ms Emery: Annual figures, yes.

Ms Leon: Can I just clarify: in relation to the 16 weeks, are you talking about redundancy data?

Senator LINES: Let us put the question a different way. Maybe, if you give us the yearly breakdown—is that how you keep them?—

Ms Emery: Yes.

Ms Parker: Yes.

Senator LINES: since its inception, that would probably work. Of the number of people that have received the FEG payment, what is the dollar figure received, so how much have they received? And can we get that by state and territory and by federal electorate?

Ms Emery: Yes.

Senator LINES: Thank you.

Ms Emery: No, not by federal electorate, sorry. I think that, in relation to the QON, we previously advised that we are not able to give it by electorate, but we can certainly do it by state, where we have that information.

Senator LINES: State and territory?

Ms Emery: Yes.

Senator LINES: From the election out 16 weeks, what are you saying you can do in relation to that question?

Ms Leon: What is the question?

Senator LINES: The question is: how many people have received—sorry, it is late—a FEG payment in excess of the 16 weeks, the redundancy payment, since the election?

Ms Emery: We would have to take that on notice.

Senator LINES: Thank you. Sorry to confuse you.

Ms Emery: That is fine.

Senator LINES: How many people have received a payment in excess of 16 weeks since 1 January 2015?

Ms Emery: We will take that on notice.

Senator LINES: You might want to take this on notice too. How many referrals has the department made to ASIC to chase companies who owe their workers entitlements?

Ms Parker: How many referrals have we made?

Senator LINES: To ASIC. What I want on those is: since the election, and since the date that the amendment bill was introduced—

Ms Emery: Yes.

Ms Parker: We will take that on notice.

Senator Lines: and then since 1 January 2015.

Answer

Question 1

Senator Lines: Maybe, if you give us the yearly breakdown—is that how you keep them ... since its inception, that would probably work. Of the number of people that have received the FEG payment, what is the dollar figure received, so how much have they received? And can we get that by state and territory and by federal electorate?

Answer 1

The department has paid 28,186 people a total amount of \$482.9 million since the Fair Entitlements Guarantee commenced on 5 December 2012 (data to 31 May 2015).

A breakdown of amounts paid by state/territory and by calendar year is provided in tables 1-4 below:

Table 1: 5 December 2012 – 31 December 2012

State	Number of Employees Paid	Amount Paid
ACT	1	\$12,876
NSW	24	\$401,270
NT	0	NIL
QLD	1	\$12,350
SA	0	NIL
TAS	0	NIL
VIC	10	\$818,268
WA	0	NIL
State not Recorded	1	\$63,598
Total	37	\$1,308,362

Table 2: 1 January 2013 – 31 December 2013

State	Number of Employees Paid	Amount Paid
ACT	57	\$697,130
NSW	2104	\$42,404,432
NT	26	\$271,281
QLD	1689	\$24,416,082
SA	622	\$13,878,661
TAS	225	\$3,992,514
VIC	1994	\$37,391,112
WA	420	\$6,403,905
State not Recorded	45	\$576,975
Total	7182	\$130,032,092

Table 3: 1 January 2014 – 31 December 2014

State	Number of Employees Paid	Amount Paid
ACT	180	\$2,353,591
NSW	3539	\$61,715,531
NT	28	\$353,219
QLD	2586	\$38,738,088
SA	1006	\$21,882,469
TAS	276	\$3,786,111
VIC	3338	\$58,490,892
WA	1791	\$29,216,079
State not Recorded	86	\$1,544,818
Total	12,830	\$218,080,798

Table 4: 1 January 2015 – 31 May 2015

State	Number of Employees Paid	Amount Paid
ACT	118	\$1,307,514
NSW	2530	\$53,733,615
NT	75	\$791,559
QLD	1956	\$27,322,660
SA	580	\$7,776,532
TAS	83	951,086
VIC	1928	\$30,166,896
WA	816	\$10,847,307
State not Recorded	51	\$576,685
Total	8137	\$133,473,854

Question 2

Senator Lines: How many people have received – sorry, it is late – a FEG payment in excess of the 16 weeks, the redundancy payment, since the election?

Answer 2

The *Fair Entitlements Guarantee Act 2012* currently provides for payment of redundancy pay of up to four weeks per year of service (pro-rata if the industrial instrument contains such a provision). The *Fair Entitlements Guarantee Amendment Bill 2014* (Amendment Bill) which is currently before the Senate seeks to cap redundancy pay at a maximum amount of 16 weeks' pay. The department has assumed the question relates to the impact on claimants if the Amendment Bill were to pass.

Since the last Federal Election on 7 September 2013, 1192 employees have received redundancy entitlements greater than 16 weeks under the Fair Entitlements Guarantee.

Question 3

Senator Lines: How many people have received a payment in excess of 16 weeks since 1 January 2015?

Answer 3

Since 1 January 2015, 386 employees have received redundancy payments greater than 16 weeks under the Fair Entitlements Guarantee.

Question 4

Senator Lines: How many referrals has the department made to ASIC to chase companies who owe their workers entitlements ... since the election and since the date that the amendment bill was introduced – and then since 1 January 2015.

Answer 4

Since the election on 7 September 2013 the Department of Employment has referred 30 matters to ASIC to consider for further investigation.

Since 4 September 2014 (when the amendment bill was introduced into the House of Representatives) the department has referred 8 matters to ASIC to consider for further investigation.

Since 1 January 2015 the department has referred 4 matters to ASIC for further investigation.