

## **Committee**

Public Hearing – 09 March 2021  
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee - Hearing into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Strengthening Income Support) Bill 2021

**Question reference number:** IQ21-000009

**Senator:** Rachel Siewert

**Type of Question:** Spoken. Hansard Page/s:

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 10 March 2021

**Question:**

Did you seek advice, and what advice was received, on whether a higher payment rate was a disincentive to work?

**Answer:**

The department consults broadly across government and engages with stakeholders in developing policy advice for government.

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Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee - Hearing into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Strengthening Income Support) Bill 2021

**Question reference number:** IQ21-000010

**Senator:** Rachel Siewert

**Type of Question:** Spoken. Hansard Page/s:

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 10 March 2021

**Question:**

What modelling was done on the impact of not indexing the Income Free Area IFA?

**Answer:**

The Department of Social Services undertook analysis on the expected impact on individual payments and overall financial implications of proposals.

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Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee - Hearing into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Strengthening Income Support) Bill 2021

**Question reference number:** IQ21-000013

**Senator:** Malarndirri McCarthy

**Type of Question:** Spoken. Hansard Page/s:

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 10 March 2021

**Question:**

How many people will go from part to full rate when Jobkeeper ends on 31 March?

**Answer:**

It is not possible in the timeframe available to separately identify how many people will go from a part rate to a full rate of income support when JobKeeper ends on 28 March 2021.

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ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee - Hearing into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Strengthening Income Support) Bill 2021

**Question reference number:** IQ21-000016

**Senator:** Malarndirri McCarthy

**Type of Question:** Spoken. Hansard Page/s:

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 10 March 2021

**Question:**

How many people will lose access to payment when the partner income test changes on 31 March 2021?

**Answer:**

On 1 April 2021, the partner income test taper will return to 60 cents alongside other changes, including the increase to base rates of payment and changes to the personal income test.

It is not possible in the timeframe available to identify the number of people who will lose access to payment solely due to the partner income test change.

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ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee - Hearing into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Strengthening Income Support) Bill 2021

**Question reference number:** IQ21-000017

**Senator:** Malarndirri McCarthy

**Type of Question:** Spoken. Hansard Page/s:

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 10 March 2021

### **Question:**

How many people will have their payment reduced or cut off when the IFA changes from \$300 to \$150 on 31 March?

### **Answer:**

As the personal income free area (IFA) for JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance (other) will change to \$150 alongside other changes including the increase to base rates of payment and a change to the partner income test taper, the number of people who will lose access or have a reduction in payment due to the IFA change are not able to be separately identified in the timeframe available.

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Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee - Hearing into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Strengthening Income Support) Bill 2021

**Question reference number:** IQ21-000019

**Senator:** Malarndirri McCarthy

**Type of Question:** Spoken. Hansard Page/s:

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 10 March 2021

**Question:**

Did the Department of Social Services know about the proposed changes to mutual obligations?

**Answer:**

The department was aware of the proposed changes to mutual obligations.