

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Parl Com QoN - Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - SQ20-000426

Question reference number: SQ20-000524

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Type of Question: Written. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 29 July 2020

Question:

How many people have been receiving each social security payment (including JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance), and how many applications for each payment have been on hand, in each week since the beginning of March, Including:

- a. Indicating the number of payment recipients receiving the Coronavirus Supplement
- b. Total number of payments by payment type and gender
- c. Total number of payments by payment type and recipient age cohort
- d. Total number of payments by payment type and location (state/territory, Commonwealth Electoral Division (CED), and Local Government Area (LGA))
- e. Please provide the committee with a weekly update of these figures – similar to the table provided at the hearing on 30 April.

Answer:

The weekly update of these figures as referenced in part e of the question is provided at Table 1.

**Table 1: Recipient numbers and claims on hand for Newstart Allowance, JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance (other)
28 February 2020 - 10 July 2020**

As at:	Newstart Allowance*		JobSeeker Payment*		Youth Allowance (other)		Total jobseekers
	Recipients	Claims on hand [^]	Recipients	Claims on hand#	Recipients	Claims on hand	Total Recipients
28-Feb-20	730,136	16,293	n/a	n/a	85,736	4,027	815,872
6-Mar-20	732,113	16,542	n/a	n/a	85,756	3,945	817,869
13-Mar-20	727,890	20,017	n/a	n/a	84,884	4,280	812,774
20-Mar-20	n/a	28,946	796,272	6,133	91,624	5,672	887,896
27-Mar-20	n/a	15,189	797,941	169,171	93,399	14,587	891,340
3-Apr-20	n/a	6,207	866,043	298,714	98,479	35,896	964,522
10-Apr-20	n/a	3,189	963,317	388,228	107,003	49,171	1,070,320
17-Apr-20	n/a	2,229	1,085,780	346,727	113,454	54,893	1,199,234
24-Apr-20	n/a	1,737	1,224,555	261,519	121,617	54,341	1,346,172
1-May-20	n/a	1,190	1,422,823	102,926	131,906	49,957	1,554,729
8-May-20	n/a	1,031	1,488,663	63,999	142,640	43,605	1,631,303
15-May-20	n/a	1,023	1,486,973	51,372	164,343	14,731	1,651,316
22-May-20	n/a	846	1,472,678	35,493	168,095	11,578	1,640,773
29-May-20	n/a	716	1,463,863	32,342	171,423	8,256	1,635,286
5-Jun-20	n/a	547	1,457,256	27,070	171,734	6,116	1,628,990
12-Jun-20	n/a	456	1,452,771	25,609	172,271	5,537	1,625,042
19-Jun-20	n/a	403	1,447,693	23,424	172,812	4,620	1,620,505
26-Jun-20	n/a	372	1,441,287	28,678	173,125	5,346	1,614,412
3-Jul-20	n/a	n/a	1,444,076	22,466	173,990	4,663	1,618,066
10-Jul-20	n/a	n/a	1,446,791	21,772	174,480	4,525	1,621,271

Data Descriptions/Notes- Table 1:

* Recipients of Newstart Allowance and Jobseeker Payment prior to 29 May 2020 included recipients of Bereavement Allowance and Sickness Allowance as these payments have been subsumed into JobSeeker Payment. This allowed for a better comparison between the recipient numbers. Recipients of Bereavement Allowance and Sickness Allowance recipients are no longer included in this data since 29 May 2020, due to the small number of recipients and subsequent risk of identification of individuals if combined with other publicly available data.

[^] Claims on hand, includes legacy claims for Newstart Allowance, Bereavement Allowance and Sickness Allowance.

Recipients of JobSeeker Payment/Newstart Allowance/Sickness Allowance who are determined to be current (i.e. entitled to be paid) on the Centrelink payment system and not in receipt of a zero rate of payment.

Recipients of Bereavement Allowance/Youth Allowance (other) who are determined to be current (i.e. entitled to be paid) on the Centrelink payment system.

From 3 July 2020, legacy claims on hand for Newstart Allowance, Bereavement Allowance and Sickness Allowance are included in claims on hand for JobSeeker Payment.

Note: From 20 March 2020, JobSeeker Payment replaced Newstart Allowance as the main income support payment for recipients aged between 22 years to Age Pension qualification age who have capacity to work. Bereavement Allowance closed to new entrants and will cease when all current recipients have completed their bereavement period. Sickness Allowance closed to new entrants and will cease on 20 September 2020.

Note: Newstart Allowance (including Bereavement Allowance and Sickness Allowance) claims reflect claim activities lodged prior to the introduction of JobSeeker Payment on 20 March 2020. Where an outstanding Newstart Allowance, claim is granted, the recipient will instead transfer to JobSeeker Payment.

Source: Services Australia Administrative data