

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Written Question - 4

Question reference number: SQ20-000429

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Type of Question: Written. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 2 June 2020

Question:

For people currently receiving JobSeeker and Youth Allowance - other, indicate:

- a. Length of time on benefit – broken down by gender.
- b. Employment type before claiming benefit (casual, part time or full time) – broken down by gender.

Answer:

Data on recipients of JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance (other) by duration on income support and gender as at 22 May 2020 is provided below. Data on employment type before claiming benefit is not available.

As at 22 May 2020		JobSeeker Payment	Youth Allowance (other)	Sickness Allowance	Bereavement Allowance
Male	Under 1 year	495,761	57,956	363	<5
	1-<2 years	68,994	13,644	125	<5
	2-<5 years	98,717	13,647	75	0
	5 years+	122,130	439	15	0
	Total	785,602	85,686	578	<5
Female	Under 1 year	371,495	54,242	326	np
	1-<2 years	46,671	12,977	121	0
	2-<5 years	84,388	14,641	61	0
	5 years+	183,378	549	16	<5
	Total	685,932	82,409	524	np
Total	Under 1 year	867,256	112,198	689	np
	1-<2 years	115,665	26,621	246	<5
	2-<5 years	183,105	28,288	136	0
	5 years+	305,508	988	31	<5
	Total	1,471,534	168,095	1,102	42

Recipients of Bereavement Allowance and Sickness Allowance have been included in this table as these recipients will transition to JobSeeker Payment at the end of their bereavement period or current medical certificate.

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Topic: Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Written Question - 5

Question reference number: SQ20-000430

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Type of Question: Written. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 2 June 2020

Question:

At the hearing on 30 April DSS indicated that costing assumptions are that around 400,000 more people are expected to register for unemployment benefits (JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance – other) over the coming months (Hansard p2). Please provide information about those costing assumptions, including:

- a. The number of people expected to be receiving the payments in each month over the next year.
- b. The number of people in each state/territory expected to receive the payments in each month over the next year.
- c. The unemployment rate assumed in the costing.

Answer:

- a. As indicated during the 30 April 2020 hearing, the costing assumptions are not a forecast but included a total number of recipients as at September 2020 for JobSeeker and Youth Allowance (Other) of 1.7 million. By month this equated to:
 - June 1.5 million
 - July 1.5 million
 - August 1.6 million
 - September 1.7 million
- b. The costings were done nationally.
- c. The costing assumes a total number of recipients, as per question a).

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Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Written Question - 23

Question reference number: SQ20-000448

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Type of Question: Written. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 2 June 2020

Question:

How many people received Parental Leave Pay in the 2018-19 financial year? Please provide a breakdown of applications by state/territory, electorate and gender.

a. Has there been a change in weekly numbers of PPL recipients in 2020, compared to 2019, since the start of the Coronavirus crisis? How many people have received the payment in each week for the corresponding period since the start of March in 2019 and 2020?

Answer:

Table 1 provides the number of parents who started to receive Parental Leave Pay in 2018-19 by State/Territory and Gender (as at 30 June 2019). Data by electorate was not available.

Tables 2 and 3 provide the number of parents who started to receive Parental Leave Pay in March and April for 2019 and 2020 (as at 30 April). Weekly data was not available.

Table 1 – Parents who started to receive Parental Leave Pay in 2018-19

State/Territory	Gender	Number of Parents
ACT	Female	3,684
ACT	Male	52
NSW	Female	57,529
NSW	Male	267
NSW	Unknown	1
NT	Female	1,695
NT	Male	6
QLD	Female	34,808
QLD	Male	186
SA	Female	11,514
SA	Male	52
SA	Unknown	1
TAS	Female	3,167
TAS	Male	18
VIC	Female	46,712
VIC	Male	207
VIC	Unknown	3
WA	Female	18,569
WA	Male	80
WA	Unknown	2
Unknown	Female	204
Unknown	Male	1
TOTAL		178,758

Table 2 – Parents who started to receive Parental Leave Pay in March and April 2019

Month	Number of Parents
March 2019	13,650
April 2019	14,282

Table 3 – Parents who started to receive Parental Leave Pay in March and April 2020

Month	Number of Parents
March 2020	15,023
April 2020	15,544

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Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Written Question 26

Question reference number: SQ20-000451

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Type of Question: Written. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 2 June 2020

Question:

Has DSS provided any advice to the Government about changing the PPL work test so people do not lose eligibility if they lose their job as a result of the Coronavirus crisis? When was that advice provided?

Answer:

The Department of Social Services worked with The Treasury in the development of legislation to establish the JobKeeper payment to make amendments to the *Paid Parental Leave Act 2010*. These amendments provided that a person in receipt of the JobKeeper payment will be considered to be performing qualifying work for the purpose of the Paid Parental Leave work test. This work was enacted through the *Coronavirus Economic Response Package Omnibus (Measures No. 2) Act 2020* which received Royal Assent on 9 April 2020.