

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee - Inquiry into the Social Services
Legislation Amendment (Enhancing Pensioner and Veteran Workforce Participation) Bill 2022.

Public Hearing – 21 September 2022
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee - Inquiry into the Social Services
Legislation Amendment (Enhancing Pensioner and Veteran Workforce Participation) Bill 2022.

Question reference number: IQ22-000038

Senator: Dean Smith

Type of Question: Spoken. **Hansard Page/s:** 29-30

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 23 September 2022

Question:

Senator DEAN SMITH: Thank you very much, Chair. Perhaps the Department of Social Services might just provide a response on notice for efficiency. Mr Flavel, did you make the remark that when the work bonus was last amended it led to little or no or very modest increase in utilisation? Did I hear that correctly?

Mr Flavel: I made the observation that, in going from \$250 to \$300 a fortnight, we hadn't seen a substantial shift. Over time—I'm not making a direct link, but over time, and Mr Sloan used these statistics—the number of pensioners reporting employment income has actually fallen.

Senator DEAN SMITH: Thank you very much for the clarification. In the joint submission to the Australian Law Reform Commission discussion paper that was entitled Grey areas: age barriers to work in Commonwealth laws—a submission that was provided by Services Australia to that inquiry—the following comment was made about the 2011 work bonus initiative:

Since the new Work Bonus was introduced— on 1 July 2011— the number of pensioners of Age Pension age with employment income in the previous 12 months grew by around 15.25 per cent from 118,000 ... to over 136,000 ... During that same period the average gross employment income of pensioners with employment income grew by more than 5 per cent from \$16,694 to \$17,498.

I'm wondering whether or not it was the modesty of the increase that you referred to—\$250 to \$300—compared to the proposition of this private senator's bill, which is to double the increase. So I'm just curious to know whether or not the uptake would be affected by the modesty of what the actual increase in the work bonus was. But I've just read that into the transcript. You might just check to make sure that is an accurate account. That would be great. Thanks very much.

Mr Flavel: Will do.

Answer:

The Department has not undertaken any research to determine why pensioners have responded to changes in the Work Bonus in the manner they have. However, the following information about the nature of the various changes may be of assistance.

The Work Bonus was introduced in 2009 as an incentive for pensioners to undertake employment. Under the original design, half of the first \$500 employment income earned in a fortnight was excluded from the income test. Up to \$250 of earnings a fortnight could be excluded from the income test.

The design of the Work Bonus changed in 2011. Under the revised design, eligible pensioners could have employment income of \$250 per fortnight excluded from the income test. The changes also introduced the income bank, which allowed unused amounts of the \$250 per fortnight exemption to accrue to a maximum of \$6,500. This amount could be used to exempt future earnings from the pension income test.

The value of the work bonus changed from 1 July 2019. The Work Bonus increased from \$250 a fortnight to \$300 a fortnight and the maximum income bank amount increased to \$7,800. The Work Bonus was also extended to pensioners over pension age who receive income from self-employment.

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Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee - Inquiry into the Social Services
Legislation Amendment (Enhancing Pensioner and Veteran Workforce Participation)

Question reference number: IQ22-000031

Senator: Dean Smith

Type of Question: Spoken. **Hansard Page/s:** 19

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 23 September 2022

Question:

Senator DEAN SMITH: I'll start with the Department of Social Services. Can you outline for us the existing initiatives to encourage age pensioner participation in the workforce?

Mr Flavel: As you would be aware, there is an existing work bonus arrangement inherent in the arrangements for the age pension that allows age pensioners to earn employment income of up to \$300 a fortnight without it being taken into account—it is disregarded under the income test. That is on top of the normal income-free area that all pensioners have. That income-free area is now at \$190 a fortnight. In addition, that \$300 per fortnight can be banked and go into what's known as an income bank, up to \$7,800 as a maximum, which effectively represents 26 fortnights. In other words, if a pensioner weren't working, then they would accrue that \$300 per fortnight in an income bank, up to a maximum of \$7,800. If, for example, after a year they chose to re-engage in employment, they would have the benefit of \$300 a fortnight continuing to accrue, plus whatever balance is in their income bank, which is up to \$7,800, plus whatever component of their ordinary income-free area of \$190 is available.

Mr Sloan: On top of that, when they exceed that, they have a taper rate of 50c in the dollar. So they keep a benefit from working even when they go beyond those limits, as Mr Flavel pointed out.

Senator DEAN SMITH: Do you have any information available to you now and here in regard to the utilisation of those two initiatives by age pensioners?

Mr Sloan: Certainly. We see around three per cent of age pensioners across the whole cohort receiving employment income, and that changes based on age. For example, if you're looking at age pensioners in the cohort of 67-year-olds, you see 8.6 per cent of age pensioners working, while, if you pick an age around 80, it drops to about 1.8 per cent of age pensioners working.

Senator DEAN SMITH: Can you provide to the committee on notice that age demographic breakdown?

Mr Sloan: Absolutely.

Answer:

Age profile of age pensioners with employment earnings as at 24 June 2022

Age	Age pensioners with employment income*	Age Pensioners by age group	Proportion of age pensioners with earnings from employment
66	3,216	39,566	8.1%
67	9,380	109,603	8.6%
68	9,272	119,929	7.7%
69	8,542	128,972	6.6%
70	7,749	134,067	5.8%
71	6,909	136,883	5.0%
72	6,173	139,404	4.4%
73	5,177	137,064	3.8%
74	4,497	139,368	3.2%
75	4,179	148,020	2.8%
76	2,845	120,911	2.4%
77	2,347	119,667	2.0%
78	1,806	115,527	1.6%
79	1,319	102,962	1.3%
80	1,112	100,501	1.1%
81	872	93,452	0.9%
82	634	88,349	0.7%
83	506	82,597	0.6%
84	388	75,690	0.5%
85+	1,066	421,521	0.3%
Total	77,989	2,554,053	3.1%

*Data includes recipients of Age Pension who had employment earnings in the last fortnight of the reporting period.

NB: Age Pension eligibility age is 66.5 years

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Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee - Inquiry into the Social Services
Legislation Amendment (Enhancing Pensioner and Veteran Workforce Participation) Bill 2022.

Question reference number: IQ22-000032

Senator: Dean Smith

Type of Question: Spoken. **Hansard Page/s:** 21

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 23 September 2022

Question:

Senator DEAN SMITH: Department of Social Services, have you estimated how many extra people are likely to re-enter the workforce as a result of the government's initiative announced as part of the Jobs and Skills Summit?

Mr Flavel: No, we would typically do a costing of the financial impact without necessarily breaking that down to how many individuals might take up particular incentives.

Senator DEAN SMITH: You have no idea whether it might be one, 10 or 100 who might take up the government's initiative?

Mr Flavel: Given that the government's initiative was announced but has not yet been brought forward to the parliament in a bill, I think I'd take that on notice for any further details about the costings and further details associated with that.

Answer:

The costing is based how long it would take a person with a certain amount of employment income to draw down on the extra \$4,000 income credit they receive as part of this measure, and calculating the additional pension they would receive during that period.

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Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee - Inquiry into the Social Services
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Question reference number: IQ22-000033

Senator: Janet Rice

Type of Question: Spoken. **Hansard Page/s:** 23

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 23 September 2022

Question:

Senator RICE: Okay. If you could please table all of the payments and those elements, that would be useful. I won't go them through now, except to note that we've got \$190 a fortnight for the pension, \$150 a fortnight for JobSeeker, and youth allowance was—is that \$150 a fortnight as well? I know the figure quoted this morning was \$75, but maybe that was \$75 a week.

Answer:

All rates, free areas, taper rates and income limits are available in the *Guide to Australian Government Payments* at:

www.servicessaustralia.gov.au/guide-to-australian-government-payments?context=1
www.servicessaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-09/co029-2209.pdf

Key information on the income tests and taper rates for the main payments is provided below, as at 20 September 2022. A partner income test also applies to partnered recipients of JobSeeker Payment, Parenting Payment, Youth Allowance, ABSTUDY Living Allowance, Austudy and Special Benefit.

Income test for pensions

The income test for pensions applies to Age Pension, Disability Support Pension and Carer Payment. The rate of payment is calculated under both the income and assets tests. The test that results in the lower rate (or nil rate) applies.

- The income free area is \$190 per fortnight for singles and \$336 per fortnight for couples (combined). Income up to this amount has no effect on the rate of payment.
- Each dollar of income above these amounts reduces the rate of payment by 50 cents for singles, and 25 cents for couples (each).
- These reductions apply until the income limits are reached (where the rate of payment is nil).
- If over Age Pension age, Work Bonus reduces assessable income.
- If under Age Pension age, Working Credits reduce assessable income.

Table 1: Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment

Status	Income free area	Income limit
	Per fortnight	
Single	\$190	\$2,243.00
Couple combined	\$336	\$3,431.20
Illness separated, couple combined	\$336	\$4,442.00

Table 2: Disability Support Pension (youth rates)

Status	Income free area	Income limit
	Per fortnight	
Single, dependent, aged 16 to 17	\$190	\$1,114.80
Single, dependent, aged 18 to 20	\$190	\$1,222.60
Single, independent, aged 16 to 20	\$190	\$1,554.40
Couple combined, aged 16 to 20	\$336	\$3,052.40

Income limits in the tables are calculated based on typical total rates, but they may vary depending on a person's circumstances. For example, they may be higher if the person receives additional fortnightly supplements, such as Rent Assistance, or lower if the person doesn't reside in Australia.

Income test for JobSeeker Payment

- The income free area is \$150 per fortnight. Income up to this amount has no effect on the rate of payment.
 - For single principal carers, each dollar of income above \$150 per fortnight reduces the rate of payment by 40 cents.
 - For all other recipients, each dollar of income between \$150 per fortnight and \$256 per fortnight reduces the rate of payment by 50 cents. Each dollar of income above \$256 per fortnight reduces the rate of payment by 60 cents.
- These reductions apply until the income limits are reached (where the rate of payment is nil).
- Working Credits reduce assessable income.

Table 3: JobSeeker Payment

Status	Income free area	Income limit
	Per fortnight	
Single		
No dependent children	\$150	\$1,296.34
With dependent children	\$150	\$1,381.17
Principal carer with dependent children	\$150	\$1,985.75
Principal carer of a dependent child granted an exemption from mutual obligation requirements for foster caring, non-parent relative caring under a court order, home schooling, distance education or large family	\$150	\$2,484.00
Aged 60 or over, after 9 continuous months on payment	\$150	\$1,391.50
Partnered	\$150	\$1,195.34

Income limits are calculated based on typical total rates, but they may vary depending on a person's circumstances. For example, they may be higher if the person receives additional fortnightly supplements, such as Rent Assistance.

Income test for Youth Allowance

Personal income test – job seekers

- The income free area is \$150 per fortnight. Income up to this amount has no effect on the rate of payment.
- Each dollar of income between \$150 per fortnight and \$250 per fortnight reduces the rate of payment by 50 cents.
- Each dollar of income above \$250 per fortnight reduces the rate of payment by 60 cents.
- This reduction applies until the income limits are reached (where the rate of payment is nil).
- Working Credits reduce assessable income.

Table 4: Youth Allowance – job seekers

Status	Income free area	Income limit
	Per fortnight	
Single		
Aged under 18, at home	\$150	\$696.17
Aged 18 or over, at home	\$150	\$786.00
Away from home	\$150	\$1,062.34
With dependent children	\$150	\$1,313.67
Principal carer of a dependent child granted an exemption from mutual obligation requirements for foster caring, non-parent relative caring under a court order, home schooling, distance education or large family	\$150	\$1,722.67
Partnered		
No dependent children	\$150	\$1,062.34
With dependent children	\$150	\$1,141.84

Income limits are calculated based on typical total rates, but they may vary depending on a person's circumstances. For example, they may be higher if the person receives additional fortnightly supplements, such as Rent Assistance.

Personal income test – Students and Australian Apprentices

- The income free area is \$452 per fortnight. Income up to this amount has no effect on the rate of payment.
- Each dollar of income between \$452 per fortnight and \$542 per fortnight reduces the rate of payment by 50 cents.
- Each dollar of income above \$542 per fortnight reduces the rate of payment by 60 cents.
- This reduction applies until the income limits are reached (where the rate of payment is nil).
- Income Bank credits reduce assessable income.
- The first \$8,647 of a merit and equity based scholarship is exempt from income testing.
- A Parental Income Test also applies to dependent recipients.

Table 5: Youth Allowance - Students and Australian Apprentices

Status	Income free area	Income limit
	Per fortnight	
<i>Single</i>		
Aged under 18, at home	\$452	\$996.50
Aged 18 or over, at home	\$452	\$1,086.34
Away from home	\$452	\$1,362.67
With dependent children	\$452	\$1,614.00
<i>Partnered</i>		
No dependent children	\$452	\$1,362.67
With dependent children	\$452	\$1,442.17
<i>Special rates for long term income support recipients</i>		
Single, at home	\$452	\$1,207.34
Single, away from home	\$452	\$1,536.84
Partnered	\$452	\$1,442.17

Income limits are calculated based on typical total rates, but they may vary depending on a person’s circumstances. For example, they may be higher if the person receives additional fortnightly supplements, such as Rent Assistance.

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Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee - Inquiry into the Social Services
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2022.

Question reference number: IQ22-000034

Senator: Janet Rice

Type of Question: Spoken. **Hansard Page/s:** 25

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 23 September 2022

Question:

Senator RICE: When you say it's an abridged version, what's the period of time that that would take?

Mr Sloan: I believe it's automatic, the fortnight you stop working those hours or the fortnight when your income drops down to be below that cut-off level that we're talking about. But certainly we can check with Services Australia and confirm that.

Senator RICE: If you could get me the details of that, I would appreciate that.

Mr Flavel: It's really best thought of as a reactivation, not a reapplication. All your details are there. You basically let Services Australia know and come straight back on. To your point, that is one of the benefits. Obviously people will not engage with work if they feel they have to go back to the beginning, particularly for DSP.

Senator RICE: That's the evidence that has been presented to me—that that in fact is a barrier, that it's not just a simple reactivation. But I look forward to getting your information about what that process is and fact-checking that with people who have to experience that process.

Answer:

Where a person's Disability Support Pension (DSP) is suspended due to returning to work, and their hours or income then reduces or the work stops, within 2 years of the suspension, DSP can be restored. The person will need to contact and provide details to Services Australia (the Agency), including about any changes in their circumstances since last paid DSP. The Agency does not reassess medical eligibility, but does confirm if the person still meets other criteria, such as income and asset tests. Generally, the Agency can restore DSP at this contact.

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Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee - Inquiry into the Social Services
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Question reference number: IQ22-000036

Senator: Anne Ruston

Type of Question: Spoken. **Hansard Page/s:** 27-28

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 23 September 2022

Question:

Senator RUSTON: Thank you. I'm not sure if these questions are for Mr Flavel or Mr Hawkins. I'm interested in having a bit of a look at the interface between the tax system and the social security system as that relates to pensioners. Do we have any idea of how many people are locked out of receiving a pension due to their income earned through work who would otherwise meet the assets test threshold or the non-work earnings requirements?

Mr Sloan: I might answer that, if I may? At least from the social security point of view, to the extent that someone's not receiving a payment due to being ruled out due to income, they would not be in our system. I would have to talk to Services Australia to get that data, to see how many people may apply for the age pension and who are knocked back during the application process due to failing the income test for employment—your question as I understood it—rather than being asset tested or having other investment income.

Answer:

In the 2021-22 financial year, 2,673 Age Pension claims were rejected due to income in excess of the disqualifying limit. The data was unable to be further broken down by employment income and other sources of income in the time available.

Some of these claims may also have been ineligible on the basis of asset levels being above relevant disqualifying limits, noting the assets test outcome is not recorded if a claim is rejected due to income.

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ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee - Inquiry into the Social Services
Legislation Amendment (Enhancing Pensioner and Veteran Workforce Participation) Bill 2022.

Question reference number: IQ22-000035

Senator: Marielle Smith

Type of Question: Spoken. **Hansard Page/s:** 26

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 23 September 2022

Question:

CHAIR: How do you communicate to people that it's an option? Is it something that you do proactive outreach on? Is it something you expect those receiving a payment to go research themselves?

Mr Sloan: Certainly for the ongoing work bonus Services Australia, through its everyday communications through websites and so forth, would do that, so I would like to take that on notice and go back to Services Australia to give an exact answer to that question.

Answer:

Services Australia promotes the Work Bonus across multiple communication channels, including the Services Australia website, media and social media.

Website – servicessaustralia.gov.au/work-bonus

- To make it easier for people to find Work Bonus related information:
 - A short URL (servicessaustralia.gov.au/workbonus) is used.
 - The Services Australia website was re-structured into a life events model in December 2021 to make it easier for customers to find information based on their situation.
- The website content steps people through the Work Bonus.
- The main Work Bonus web page has been viewed 40,118 times for the period 1 February 2022 to 21 September 2022.

Brochure and video communication

- Information about the Work Bonus is provided in the Theme Brochure '*About to retire or in retirement*'. This is a printed brochure which is displayed in service centres.
- Video content for use on social media and the Services Australia website was updated and published in June 2022. The video on the Services Australia YouTube channel has been viewed 7,100 times for the period 1 February 2022 to 21 September 2022 with 85 percent of viewers watching the video in its entirety.

Social media

- Between February 2022 and September 2022, Services Australia has made 2 social media posts about the Work Bonus, on the Seniors Update Facebook.

Media engagements

- The Services Australia spokesperson, General Manager Hank Jongen often discusses concessions available to eligible pensioners, including the Work Bonus.
- Between February 2022 and September 2022, Mr Jongen discussed the Work Bonus with the following media outlets:
 - Thursday 30 June – 5AA (Mornings with Leon Byner)
 - Tuesday 20 September – ABC Radio Hobart (Mornings with Mel Bush)
- In 2021, Mr Jongen discussed the Work Bonus with the following media outlets:
 - Tuesday 16 June 2021 – 2SM Sydney (The John Laws Morning Show) plus regional networking to 20 NSW outlets.
 - Thursday 3 June 2021 – 2GB (Afternoons with Deborah Knight)
 - Wednesday 18 May 2021 – 5AA Adelaide (Mornings with Leon Byner)
 - Wednesday 18 May 2021 – ABC Radio Adelaide (Afternoons with Sonya Feldhoff)
 - Thursday 1 April 2021 – 2GB (Afternoons with Deborah Knight)
 - Wednesday 10 March 2021 – 6PR (Perth Live with Oliver Peterson)
- Services Australia's Community Information Officer, Justin Bott also discusses the Work Bonus in his regular media engagements.
- Mr Bott has discussed this topic with the following outlets:
 - Monday 20 December 2021 – Gulf FM (SA)
 - Wednesday 15 December 2021 – 5GTR FM (SA)
 - Tuesday 7 December 2021 – Seymour FM (VIC)
 - December 2021 – 4CRM Mackay (QLD) and Keppel FM (QLD)
 - July 2021 – 4CRB Gold Coast (QLD)
 - March and June 2021 – Baby Boomers guide to the 21st Century (Podcast)

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Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee - Inquiry into the Social Services
Legislation Amendment (Enhancing Pensioner and Veteran Workforce Participation) Bill 2022.

Question reference number: IQ22-000037

Senator: Anne Ruston

Type of Question: Spoken. **Hansard Page/s:** 28

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 23 September 2022

Question:

Senator RUSTON: Good. The only reason I'm interested is if you're able to differentiate it out—income that's earned through the effort of work as opposed to income that's earned from an income-generating asset. That's the important component here: income earned through work and the influencing factors around that. This one is probably to you, Mr Hawkins: in the modelling you're seeing now as we start to get to a more mature system of superannuation guarantee, are we seeing a reduction in the percentage of people of retirement age who are relying on the pension?

Mr Hawkins: That might have to be a question for DSS in terms of the take-up rate of the age pension. In a broad sense, the balances which individuals are retiring with when they reach their preservation age, the age of eligibility for the age pension, is increasing over time. There's information in the Retirement Income Review that shows what Treasury expects that distribution to be. The average balance is, I think, currently around \$180,000 at retirement. That's expected to rise substantially over the next 30 to 40 years. But I can't really speak to the age pension eligibility question.

Mr Sloan: My understanding—and we'll see what we can get on notice—is that it's the long-term trend as a percentage of the population and that's the important measure here where we are seeing a drop-off. What's driving that could be a range of factors. I would suspect that, yes, as the superannuation system matures that would be a key driver. But we can certainly get that percentage on notice back to the committee.

Answer:

The percentage of the population over Age Pension Age in receipt of the Age Pension has been trending downwards over time (Table 1).

A significant percentage of Age Pensioners receive a part rate of Age Pension due to either their income or assets or both exceeding the relevant free areas. Table 2 provides a time series of the percentage of the Centrelink Age Pensioners in receipt of a part-rate of payment and the basis on which they receive the reduced rate. In the time available, it is not possible to distinguish between the impact of employment income and other forms of income.

There was a reduction in the proportion of pensioners receiving a part-rate following the 1 January 2017 measure to rebalance the assets test. This measure increased the assets test free-areas, creating more maximum-rate recipients. The measure also increased the rate at which the pension was reduced for assets above the free areas, from \$1.50 to \$3.00 for every \$1,000 in excess of the free areas, resulting in some part-rate pensioners moving off pension and fewer part-rate recipients overall.

Table 1: Percentage of ABS Projected Population over Age Pension Age, in receipt of Age Pension

Reporting Date	Reported % of ABS Projected Population over Age Pension Age, in Receipt of Age Pension
Mar-14	68.2%
Jun-14	69.8%
Sep-14	70.4%
Dec-14	71.0%
Mar-15	69.4%
Jun-15	69.8%
Sep-15	70.2%
Dec-15	70.6%
Mar-16	68.8%
Jun-16	69.0%
Sep-16	69.4%
Dec-16	69.8%
Mar-17	65.6%
Jun-17	65.8%
Sep-17	67.7%
Dec-17	67.3%
Mar-18	65.2%
Jun-18	65.3%
Sep-18	65.7%
Dec-18	66.0%
Mar-19	64.8%
Jun-19	65.1%
Sep-19	64.9%
Dec-19	64.6%
Mar-20	65.2%
Jun-20	65.9%
Sep-20	66.2%
Dec-20	66.5%
Mar-21	64.8%
Jun-21	64.9%
Sep-21	65.0%
Dec-21	65.1%
Mar-22	64.6%
Jun-22	64.1%

Data Descriptions:

Includes recipients of Age Pension who are determined to be current (i.e. entitled to be paid) or suspended on the Centrelink payment system, and recipients of Age Pension paid by Department of Veterans Affairs on DSS' behalf.

Data is point in time data, at the end of each given month.

Projected ABS Populations are based on ABS 3222.0 Series B.

Source: Services Australia Administrative Data

Table 2: Percentage of Centrelink Age Pensioners in receipt of a part rate

Reporting Date	Percentage of Centrelink Age Pensioners who are Part Rate Income Tested	Percentage of Centrelink Age Pensioners who are Part Rate Asset Tested	Percentage of Centrelink Age Pensioners in Receipt of a Part Rate
Mar-14	24.2%	16.3%	40.5%
Jun-14	24.1%	16.7%	40.8%
Sep-14	23.8%	16.6%	40.4%
Dec-14	23.7%	17.2%	40.8%
Mar-15	23.0%	18.0%	41.1%
Jun-15	23.1%	18.3%	41.4%
Sep-15	23.8%	17.7%	41.5%
Dec-15	23.3%	18.1%	41.3%
Mar-16	23.8%	17.6%	41.4%
Jun-16	23.9%	17.8%	41.7%
Sep-16	23.1%	17.9%	41.1%
Dec-16	22.8%	18.2%	41.0%
Mar-17	24.8%	12.7%	37.5%
Jun-17	25.1%	12.8%	37.9%
Sep-17	24.7%	12.6%	37.3%
Dec-17	24.8%	12.7%	37.5%
Mar-18	25.2%	12.6%	37.8%
Jun-18	25.2%	12.8%	38.0%
Sep-18	25.2%	12.5%	37.7%
Dec-18	25.0%	12.7%	37.7%
Mar-19	25.5%	12.7%	38.2%
Jun-19	24.9%	13.0%	37.8%
Sep-19	22.5%	13.2%	35.7%
Dec-19	22.4%	13.4%	35.8%
Mar-20	22.4%	13.2%	35.6%
Jun-20	19.4%	13.3%	32.7%
Sep-20	18.6%	13.6%	32.2%
Dec-20	18.1%	13.9%	32.0%
Mar-21	17.8%	14.6%	32.4%
Jun-21	17.9%	14.7%	32.6%
Sep-21	17.7%	14.9%	32.6%
Dec-21	17.6%	15.4%	33.0%
Mar-22	17.6%	15.2%	32.9%
Jun-22	17.4%	15.4%	32.8%

Data Descriptions:

Includes recipients of Age Pension who are determined to be current (i.e. entitled to be paid) or suspended on the Centrelink payment system only.

Data is point in time data, at the end of each given month.

Source: Services Australia Administrative Data