

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Inquiry into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Division: Macroeconomic Conditions Division
Topic: Disaster payment modelling
Reference: IQ21-000096
Senator: Katy Gallagher

Question:

With reference to the Government's recent announcement about cutting off the COVID-19 Disaster Payment (joint media release issued by the Treasurer and the Minister for Emergency Management and National Recovery and Resilience dated 29 September 2021 entitled 'COVID-19 Disaster Payment' refers):

- a. Has the Government commissioned any kind of modelling, assessment or analysis etc to identify the number of individuals likely to be receiving the COVID-19 Disaster Payment when each State and Territory reaches the 70 per cent and 80 per cent vaccination thresholds?
- b. According to that modelling, assessment or analysis etc, how many individuals will be receiving the COVID-19 Disaster Payment in each State and Territory when the relevant State or Territory reaches the 70 per cent vaccination threshold?
 - i. Can a figure for each Federal electorate please be provided?
- c. According to that modelling, assessment or analysis etc, how many individuals will be receiving the COVID-19 Disaster Payment in each State and Territory when the relevant State or Territory reaches the 80 per cent vaccination threshold?
 - i. Can a figure for each Federal electorate please be provided?

Answer:

Treasury forecasts outcomes in the labour market, including future numbers of unemployment recipients, and provides input into modelling for other departments and government agencies. However, Treasury has not directly estimated the number of people who will be in receipt of a COVID-19 Disaster Payment when 70 and 80 per cent vaccination thresholds are reached.