

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Written Question from Senator Gallagher

Question reference number: SQ20-000425

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Type of Question: Written. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 05 June 2020

Question:

I refer to the document tabled by the Department on 30 April 2020 with Recipient numbers and claims on hand for Newstart Allowance, JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance (other) from 28 February 2020 - 24 April 2020.

Can the Department provide an update on this table with the most recent figures?

Answer:

Data as of 22 May 2020 is provided in the table below.



**Recipient numbers and outstanding claims for Newstart Allowance, JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance (other)
28 February 2020 - 22 May 2020**

As at:	Newstart Allowance*		JobSeeker Payment*		Youth Allowance (other)		Total jobseekers
	Number of Recipients	Outstanding Claims [^]	Number of Recipients	Outstanding Claims	Number of Recipients	Outstanding Claims	Total number of recipients
28-Feb-20	730,136	16,293	n/a	n/a	85,736	4027	815,872
6-Mar-20	732,113	16,542	n/a	n/a	85,756	3945	817,869
13-Mar-20	727,890	20,017	n/a	n/a	84,884	4280	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

Data Descriptions/Notes:

*Recipients of Newstart Allowance and Jobseeker Payment include recipients of Bereavement Allowance and Sickness Allowance as these payments have been subsumed into JobSeeker Payment. This allows for a better comparison between the recipient numbers.

[^] Outstanding claims, 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.

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, Bereavement Allowance or Sickness Allowance claim is granted, the recipient will instead transfer to JobSeeker Payment.

Source: Services Australia Administrative data