

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 1 MARCH 2018 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Newstart - Recipients

Question reference number: SQ18-000163

Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments

Senator: Rachel Siewert

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 20 April 2018

Number of pages: 3

Question:

Please provide a breakdown as at June 2017 of the number and percentage of Newstart Allowance recipients (singles, couples, singles with children, couples with children, and total) who receive:

- (a) Newstart only;
- (b) Newstart plus Rent Assistance (RA) only (and the average \$ amounts of each received);
- (c) Newstart plus Family Tax Benefits (FTB) only (and the average \$ amounts of each received);
- (d) Newstart plus RA and FTB (and the average \$ amounts of each received);
- (e) Newstart plus any other supplementary payments without RA or FTB (and the names of the payments and average total \$ amounts of 'other supplementary payments' received);
- (f) Newstart plus any other supplementary payments with RA only (and the names of the payments and average total \$ amounts of 'other supplementary payments', and average RA received);
- (g) Newstart plus any other supplementary payments with FTB only (and the names of the payments and average total \$ amounts of 'other supplementary payments', and average FTB received);
- (h) Newstart plus any other supplementary payments with RA and FTB (and the names of the payments and average total \$ amounts of 'other supplementary payments', and average FTB received and average RA received).

Answer:

(a)-(h) The following breakdown includes the number and percentage of Newstart Allowance (NSA) recipients who receive Rent Assistance (RA), Family Tax Benefit (FTB) and/or other supplementary allowances as well as the average amount.

- Single recipients (Table 1)
- Partnered recipients (Table 2)
- Single recipients who are a principal carer of children (Table 3)
- Partnered recipients who are a principal carer of children (Table 4)
- Newstart Allowance recipient totals (Table 5)

Please note, 'Single recipients' and 'Partnered recipients' include NSA recipients who may have children but are not the principal carer yet may still be eligible for FTB.

Table 1: Single recipients

Single recipients	Count	%	Average RA (\$p.f.)	Average FTB (\$p.f.)	Average other supplements (\$p.f.)
(a) NSA only	4,243	0.90	0	0	0
(b) NSA and RA	55	0	86.66	0	0
(c) NSA and FTB	65	0	0	284.48	0
(d) NSA, FTB and RA	63	0	122.16	331.36	0
(e) NSA and other supplements only	267,356	55.40	0	0	14.61
(f) NSA, RA and other supplements	187,297	38.80	98.78	0	13.85
(g) NSA, FTB and other supplements	11,643	2.40	0	313.64	19.90
(h) NSA, FTB, RA and other supplements	11,592	2.40	128.98	327.36	18.87
Total	482,314	100			

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding

Table 2: Partnered recipients

Partnered recipients	Count	%	Average RA (\$p.f.)	Average FTB (\$p.f.)	Average other supplements (\$p.f.)
(a) NSA only	1,127	0.80	0	0	0
(b) NSA and RA	10	0	76.20	0	0
(c) NSA and FTB	40	0	0	399.68	0
(d) NSA, FTB and RA	40	0	145.64	438.28	0
(e) NSA and other supplements only	108,045	77.70	0	0	14.50
(f) NSA, RA and other supplements	19,683	14.20	76.20	0	11.85
(g) NSA, FTB and other supplements	5,308	3.80	0	380.72	20.00
(h) NSA, FTB, RA and other supplements	4,830	3.50	143.87	411.25	15.25
Total	139,083	100			

Table 3: Single recipients with children

Single recipients who are principal carer parents of children	Count	%	Average RA (\$p.f.)	Average FTB (\$p.f.)	Average other supplements (\$p.f.)
(a) NSA only	52	0.10	0	0	0
(b) NSA and RA	0	0	0	0	0
(c) NSA and FTB	148	0.20	0	352.19	0
(d) NSA, FTB and RA	174	0.20	128.80	400.16	0
(e) NSA and other supplements only	1,619	1.90	0	0	24.48
(f) NSA, RA and other supplements	717	0.80	110.04	0	21.54
(g) NSA, FTB and other supplements	40,703	46.60	0	389.31	29.13
(h) NSA, FTB, RA and other supplements	43,931	50.30	129.92	409.63	27.96
Total	87,344	100			

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding

Table 4: Partnered recipients with children

Partnered recipients who are principal carer parents of children	Count	%	Average RA (\$p.f.)	Average FTB (\$p.f.)	Average other supplements (\$p.f.)
(a) NSA only	64	0.30	0	0	0
(b) NSA and RA	0	0	0	0	0
(c) NSA and FTB	55	0.20	0	420.36	0
(d) NSA, FTB and RA	48	0.20	142.26	467.20	0
(e) NSA and other supplements only	3,524	14.50	0	0	16.24
(f) NSA, RA and other supplements	155	0.60	97.70	0	14.11
(g) NSA, FTB and other supplements	11,237	46.20	0	464.77	25.84
(h) NSA, FTB, RA and other supplements	9,264	38.00	150.12	486.28	19.83
Total	24,347	100			

Table 5: Newstart Allowance recipient totals

Newstart Allowance recipients totals	Count	%	Average RA (\$p.f.)	Average FTB (\$p.f.)	Average other supplements (\$p.f.)
(a) NSA only	5,486	0.70	0	0	0
(b) NSA and RA	65	0	85.05	0	0
(c) NSA and FTB	308	0	0	356.24	0
(d) NSA, FTB and RA	325	0	131.57	401.41	0
(e) NSA and other supplements only	380,544	51.90	0	0	14.64
(f) NSA, RA and other supplements	207,852	28.40	96.68	0	13.68
(g) NSA, FTB and other supplements	68,891	9.40	0	388.17	26.33
(h) NSA, FTB, RA and other supplements	69,617	9.50	133.42	406.24	24.48
Total	733,088	100			

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding

‘Other Supplements’ refers to supplementary payments that are paid on a fortnightly basis, and includes Approved Program of Work Supplement, Carer Allowance, Energy Supplement, Language Literacy and Numeracy Supplement, Mobility Allowance, Pensioner Education Supplement, Pharmaceutical Allowance and Remote Area Allowance.

Education Entry Payment and Telephone Allowance are not included, as these are not fortnightly payments, but are paid annually, biannually and quarterly respectively.

Recipients who receive NSA only are recipients who do not receive the Energy Supplement (ES) as they are either new to payments and have not received their first instalment, or have been overseas for more than six weeks (ES is not payable for absences beyond six weeks).

References to RA include where RA is paid as part of NSA or as part of FTB.