

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 11

Question No: 612

Topic: Sickness Allowance

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

Can you provide the latest data on number of recipients of the Sickness Allowance?

- a. age;
- b. state/territory;
- c. sex;
- d. Indigenous status;
- e. condition/illness;
- f. duration on payment (<1yr, 1-2, 2-5, 5-10, 10+);
- g. number and percentage reporting employment;
- h. number and percentage of people on part rate due to means test;
- i. reported hours of work undertaken;
- j. reported income from employment;
- k. reported income from other assets; and
- l. other payments received.

Answer:

The following tables provide the number of Sickness Allowance recipients as at the 27 December 2013 according to the breakdown requested. In order to protect the privacy of individuals, populations less than 20 are reported as "<20" and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are not provided "np".

Age Group	Recipients
21-24	490
25-29	740
30-34	702
35-39	767
40-44	921
45-49	1014
50-54	1209
55-59	969
60-64	749
Total	7561

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Table b) Recipients of Sickness Allowance by State	
State	Recipients
New South Wales	2132
Victoria	1990
Queensland	1805
Western Australia	672
South Australia	618
Tasmania	192
Australian Capital Territory	89
Northern Territory	58
Unknown	5
Total	7561

Table c) Recipients of Sickness Allowance by Gender	
Gender	Recipients
Males	4180
Females	3381
Total	7561

Table d) Recipients of Sickness Allowance by Indigenous Indicator	
Indigenous Indicator	Recipients
Indigenous	288
Non-Indigenous	7273
Total	7561

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Table e) Recipients of Sickness Allowance by Medical Condition (note: Recipients can have more than 1 medical condition)	
Medical Condition	Recipients
Musculo/Skeletal & Connective Tissue	3217
Psychological/Psychiatric	2520
Cancer/Tumour	795
Circulatory System	529
Nervous System	306
Gastro-Intestinal System	256
Endocrine & Immune System	167
Poorly Defined Cause	140
Respiratory System	120
Chronic Pain	108
Sense Organs	106
Acquired Brain Impairment	104
Reproductive System	103
Urogenital System	76
Visceral Disorder	70
Infectious Diseases	61
Amputation	<20
Skin Disorder & Burns	<20
Congenital Abnormalities	<20
Intellectual/ Learning	<20
Inherited Disorders	<20

Table f) Recipients of Sickness Allowance by Duration on Sickness Allowance	
Duration on Payment	Recipients
Less Than 1 Year	5795
1 - 2 Years	1299
2 - 5 Years	np
5 - 10 Years	<20
Total	7561

Table g) Recipients of Sickness Allowance by Earnings		
Earnings Last Fortnight	Recipients	%
Had Earnings	557	7.4
No Earnings	7004	92.6

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Table h) Recipients of Sickness Allowance by Rate		
Rate	Recipients	%
Full Rate	6250	82.7
Part Rate	1278	16.9
Undetermined Rate	33	0

Table i) Recipients of Sickness Allowance by hours worked last fortnight	
Hours worked last fortnight	Recipients
No hours	7045
1 - 14 hours	184
15 - 29 hours	184
30 hours +	148
Total	7561

Table j) Recipients of Sickness Allowance by earnings last fortnight	
Earnings last fortnight	Recipients
Nil earnings	7004
\$1 - \$61	44
\$62 - \$235	107
\$236 - \$249	<20
\$250 Plus	np
Total	7561

Table k) Recipients of Sickness Allowance by earnings from other sources	
Earnings per fortnight from other sources	Recipients
Nil earnings	1972
\$1 - \$61	5135
\$62 - \$235	239
\$236 - \$249	<20
\$250 Plus	np
Total	7561

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Table 1) Recipients of Sickness Allowance receiving a supplementary payment (note: Recipients can receive more than 1 supplement)	
Supplementary payment	Recipients
Carer Allowance	145
Clean Energy Supplement	7515
Family Tax Benefit	767
Mobility Allowance	<20
Pharmaceutical Allowance	7493
Remote Area Allowance	117
Rent Assistance paid as a component of Family Tax	2591
Telephone Allowance	60
Income Support Bonus	5118

Source: Department of Human Services administrative data