

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 26 FEBRUARY 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Disaster Assistance

Question reference number: HS 38

Senator: Cameron

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 April 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

In regard to Tropical Cyclone Marcia:

- a) How many DHS staff were placed into the Fitzroy region of Queensland to assist communities affected by Marcia?
- b) How many AGDRP payments have been made (adults and children)?
- c) What AGDRP assistance is available to those people whose residence was not damaged but were unable to gain access their principal place of residence for at least 24 hours; or were stranded in their principal place of residence for at least 24 hours; or as a result of the disaster, the person's principal place of residence was without electricity, water, gas, sewerage service or another essential service for at least 48 hours?

Answer:

- a) 34 departmental employees were deployed to the Fitzroy region to assist communities affected by Tropical Cyclone Marcia.
- b) As at close of business Wednesday 18 March 2015, 6,466 Disaster Recovery Payments have been made, including 3,872 child payments. This includes payments to New Zealand non-protected special category visa holders under a Disaster Recovery Payment-equivalent ex gratia payment.
- c) This question should be directed to the Attorney-General's Department as that department is responsible for policy matters in relation to Commonwealth disaster recovery assistance.