

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 11 FEBRUARY 2016 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Overpayments

Question reference number: HS 132

Senator: Cameron

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 April 2016

Number of pages: 2

Question:

What was the total number of customers who received an overpayment in the financial years 2013-14, 2014-2015, and so far in 2015-16?

a) Please provide this in percentage terms and a payment type breakdown.

Answer:

The following table provides the number and percentage of income support recipients with Centrelink overpayments for 2013-14, 2014-15 and current financial year to 31 January 2016.

Income support recipients with Centrelink overpayments		
	Number of Customers with an Overpayment	Percentage of Customers with an Overpayment
2013-14	893,045	13.13%
2014-15	906,657	13.22%
2015-16 (to 31 Jan 2016)	629,917	9.64%

Note: The percentages have been rounded to two decimal points. Using these rounded figures may result in discrepancies in individual calculations of the number of customers with an overpayment.

- a) The following table provides the number and percentage of income support recipients with Centrelink overpayments for 2013-14, 2014-15 and current financial year to 31 January 2016.

Payment Type	2013-14		2014-15		2015-16 to 31 January 2016	
	Total number of customers with an overpayment	Percent of Total Customers with an Overpayment (%)	Total number of customers with an overpayment	Percent of Total Customers with an Overpayment (%)	Total number of customers with an overpayment	Percent of Total Customers with an Overpayment (%)
ABSTUDY	5,812	11.49%	5,962	11.71%	3,330	8.11%
Age Pension	71,571	2.87%	88,026	3.41%	40,781	1.59%
Austudy	18,678	22.61%	19,372	22.89%	9,968	15.66%
Carers	32,399	12.18%	35,998	12.64%	22,798	8.31%
Disability Support	61,066	7.1%	58,323	6.8%	32,353	3.98%
Family Tax Benefit	513,847	27.92%	512,854	28.37%	424,234	24.92%
Newstart Allowance	249,732	21.82%	249,015	21.45%	137,202	13.32%
Other	26,971	14.92%	26,887	15.9%	13,650	11.03%
Parenting Payment Partnered	48,645	30.93%	50,717	32.69%	38,222	29.64%
Parenting Payment Single	95,749	29.98%	97,489	30.27%	77,455	26.2%
Youth Allowance	87,376	15.81%	87,683	16.27%	40,132	9.55%

Note 1: While each customer is only counted once within each payment type, some customers receive more than one payment, so could appear in more than one payment type.

Note 2: The percentages have been rounded to two decimal points. Using these rounded figures may result in discrepancies in individual calculations of the number of customers with an overpayment.