

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES - 4 JUNE 2013 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Data – Northern Suburbs of Adelaide

Question reference number: HS 24

Senator: Edwards

Type of question: Hansard pages 91-92

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Question:

Senator EDWARDS: I want to take you, just for context, to the income support recipients and specifically an area where I work, which is the northern suburbs of Adelaide, which is in another program of income management where they intervene and do all of that. Obviously youth unemployment is at 44 per cent and of course that creates a great deal of anxiety and a great deal of work for my office as we try to deal with the manufacturing closures that have gone on there over the last six or eight months. It seems to be an epidemic at the moment.

I want to try to address, stem the tide or work with the communities. Do we have any figures on the increase of benefits paid over the last five years? I am trying to get to a situation where I can get an understanding of the Family Tax Benefit, the healthcare card, low income card, the Abstudy, both non-living allowance and living allowance, Youth Allowance, Youth Allowances Students and Apprenticeships and Austudy. I am trying to find a trend over the last five years, and you would have that information. Obviously with 44 per cent youth unemployment we want to try to get that back. I want to find out if we have a benchmark from five years ago to today as to what has happened in that area. That specifically takes in the electoral division of Wakefield. There is a little bit of Makin in there, but largely it is Wakefield.

Mr Sandison: We can obviously take that on notice and for that area go through the payments that you have identified and do a five-year snapshot that gives a point in time figure that will allow you to see the year-by-year changes that might have gone on. The actual ownership of the data is through the policy departments, DEEWR and FaHCSIA, but we work with them on a standard protocol and we can bring together a set of data that gives you five years—a point in time in each of those five years across that number of payments.

Senator EDWARDS: I am never in the right spot to ask the right questions.

Mr Sandison: We can be a centre point for the other two departments.

Senator EDWARDS: Do you understand that I am trying to see trends? I am trying to see whether things have gone backwards. I am interested to know whether Youth Allowance and the Austudy has gone backwards and everything has gone up the other way. I want to get a snapshot into that region to find out where we have the dysfunction.

Mr Sandison: Certainly.

Senator EDWARDS: If you like, I will provide the secretariat with a précis of that question so that you have that.

Answer:

The attached tables provide data on the number of customers in the electorate of Wakefield who receive the following payments and programs:

- Family Tax Benefit Part A and Family Tax Benefit Part B;
- Health Care Card;
- Low Income Health Care Card;
- ABSTUDY;
- Youth Allowance (full-time student);
- Youth Allowance (Australian Apprentice); and
- Youth Allowance (job seeker).

The data provided is as at June 2010, June 2011, June 2012 and March 2013. In the case of Youth Allowance (full-time students and Australian Apprentices), data has also been provided as at June 2009.

ABSTUDY

The reduction in the number of ABSTUDY customers under 21 years in receipt of Living Allowance is owing to the implementation of the Supporting Families with Teenagers measure on 1 January 2012. Under this measure, Family Tax Benefit Part A increased for dependants aged 16–19 years undertaking full-time secondary study. Some families decided to forfeit ABSTUDY entitlements to claim Family Tax Benefit, as it was a better payment option for their family.

Youth Allowance (full-time students)

Since 1 January 2012, Family Tax Benefit is the primary payment for young people aged 16–17 years in full-time secondary study. A 16–17 year old in full-time secondary study may only claim Youth Allowance where:

- they are required to live away from home to study; or
- they are considered independent for Youth Allowance purposes.

This explains the reduction in Youth Allowance full-time students from 2012 onwards.

Payment by age group and marital status for the Electorate of Wakefield - FTB 25 June 2010, Cards 4 June 2010

Age group	Family Tax Benefit A			Family Tax Benefit B			Health Care Card			Low Income Card		
	Marital status			Marital status			Marital status			Marital status		
	Partnered	Not partnered	Unknown	Partnered	Not partnered	Unknown	Partnered	Not partnered	Unknown	Partnered	Not partnered	Unknown
Under 21	147	273	<20	140	273	<20	245	3169	33	24	2043	31
21 to 29	2027	1935	<20	1651	1934	<20	1317	2387	<20	45	400	<20
30 to 39	4178	2393	<20	2799	2391	<20	2009	1556	<20	43	50	<20
40 to 49	3126	1862	<20	1692	1822	<20	1370	1425	<20	52	66	<20
50 to 59	544	375	<20	301	351	<20	586	654	<20	104	48	<20
60 to 64	37	35	<20	28	35	<20	249	134	<20	100	28	<20
65 and over	25	21	<20	21	21	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20

Payment by age group and marital status for the Electorate of Wakefield - FTB 24 June 2011, Cards 3 June 2011

Age group	Family Tax Benefit A			Family Tax Benefit B			Health Care Card			Low Income Card		
	Marital status			Marital status			Marital status			Marital status		
	Partnered	Not partnered	Unknown	Partnered	Not partnered	Unknown	Partnered	Not partnered	Unknown	Partnered	Not partnered	Unknown
Under 21	124	274	<20	121	274	<20	222	3627	<20	<20	2461	<20
21 to 29	2145	2073	<20	1754	2072	<20	1318	2456	<20	38	397	<20
30 to 39	4145	2502	<20	2853	2501	<20	2018	1628	<20	51	47	<20
40 to 49	2997	1906	<20	1783	1895	<20	1426	1389	<20	45	48	<20
50 to 59	501	407	<20	305	389	<20	580	687	<20	111	46	<20
60 to 64	41	42	<20	34	42	<20	205	123	<20	90	27	<20
65 and over	22	22	<20	<20	22	<20	23	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20

Payment by age group and marital status for the Electorate of Wakefield - 29 June 2012

Age group	Family Tax Benefit A			Family Tax Benefit B			Health Care Card			Low Income Card		
	Marital status			Marital status			Marital status			Marital status		
	Partnered	Not partnered	Unknown	Partnered	Not partnered	Unknown	Partnered	Not partnered	Unknown	Partnered	Not partnered	Unknown
Under 21	132	268	<20	129	268	<20	258	3056	<20	28	1843	<20
21 to 29	2137	2162	<20	1716	2143	<20	1336	2644	<20	52	432	<20
30 to 39	3927	2666	<20	2763	2615	<20	1930	1741	<20	57	58	<20
40 to 49	2873	2216	<20	1775	2126	<20	1449	1506	<20	49	48	<20
50 to 59	549	504	<20	329	477	<20	567	757	<20	103	52	<20
60 to 64	41	49	<20	36	45	<20	236	130	<20	106	34	<20
65 and over	30	26	<20	25	24	<20	31	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20

Payment by age group and marital status for the Electorate of Wakefield - FTB 29 March 2013, Cards 8 March 2013

Age group	Family Tax Benefit A		Family Tax Benefit B		Health Care Card			Low Income Card		
	Marital status		Marital status		Marital status			Marital status		
	Partnered	Not partnered	Partnered	Not partnered	Partnered	Not partnered	Unknown	Partnered	Not partnered	Unknown
Under 21	142	276	134	276	286	2725	24	47	1437	<20
21 to 29	2070	2302	1703	2285	1433	2848	<20	51	432	<20
30 to 39	3766	2733	2708	2678	1995	1931	<20	49	71	<20
40 to 49	2661	2325	1757	2253	1446	1697	<20	53	58	<20
50 to 59	499	532	350	515	606	793	<20	105	47	<20
60 to 64	37	49	31	46	228	156	<20	111	32	<20
65 and over	36	36	28	34	38	29	<20	<20	<20	<20

Health Care Card by payment type for the Electorate of Wakefield - 2 July 2010

Payment type	Health Care Card
EHC Extension of HCC to ex care re	<20
FST Foster Child	210
MOB Mobility Allowance	56
SPL Special Benefit	59
FTB Family Tax Benefit	2191
CA HCC only	232
Newstart Allowance	4596
Parenting Payment Partnered	1401
Parenting Payment Single	<20
Sickness Allowance	63
Special Benefit	59
Widow Allowance	110
Youth Allowance	1228
Partner Allowance	110

Health Care Card by payment type for the Electorate of Wakefield - 1 July 2011

Payment type	Health Care Card
EHC Extension of HCC to ex care re	24
FST Foster Child	265
MOB Mobility Allowance	61
SPL Special Benefit	61
FTB Family Tax Benefit	2366
CA HCC only	390
Newstart Allowance	4802
Parenting Payment Partnered	1365
Parenting Payment Single	<20
Sickness Allowance	61
Special Benefit	61
Widow Allowance	85
Youth Allowance	1311
Partner Allowance	67

Health Care Card by payment type for the Electorate of Wakefield - 29 June 2012

Payment type	Health Care Card
EHC Extension of HCC to ex care re	33
FST Foster Child	309
MOB Mobility Allowance	69
SPL Special Benefit	44
FTB Family Tax Benefit	2316
CA HCC only	431
Newstart Allowance	5066
Parenting Payment Partnered	1363
Parenting Payment Single	<20
Sickness Allowance	80
Special Benefit	44
Widow Allowance	70
Youth Allowance	1362
Partner Allowance	43

Health Care Card by payment type for the Electorate of Wakefield - 5 April 2013

Payment type	Health Care Card
EHC Extension of HCC to ex care re	51
FST Foster Child	328
MOB Mobility Allowance	80
SPL Special Benefit	29
FTB Family Tax Benefit	2565
CA HCC only	455
Newstart Allowance	5323
Parenting Payment Partnered	1276
Parenting Payment Single	<20
Sickness Allowance	70
Special Benefit	29
Widow Allowance	64
Youth Allowance	1767
Partner Allowance	31

Trade Qualification (Y12 Equiv)	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Under-Graduate	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Unknown	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Year 10 Sec	348	290	278	280	280	280
Year 11 Sec	250	219	252	312	281	281
Year 12 Sec	289	318	<20	<20	469	469
Year 9 Sec	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Total	1,329	1,359	1,426	1,857	1,857	1,857

A13118: Youth Allowance (students and apprentices) and Austudy recipients by age group and marital status in the electorate of Wakefield as at reported extract date

Table 1: Recipients by age group

Extract Date	Youth Allowance (student)		Youth Allowance (apprentice)		Austudy				
	less than 21 years	21 to 29 years	less than 21 years	21 to 29 years	21 to 29 years	30 to 39 years	40 to 49 years	50 to 59 years	60 to 64 years
26/06/2009	2094	153	28	<20	77	77	56	28	<20
25/06/2010	2193	187	29	<20	78	90	66	<20	<20
24/06/2011	2595	210	33	<20	81	71	54	<20	<20
29/06/2012	1951	245	33	<20	92	87	66	<20	<20
29/03/2013	1525	289	54	<20	107	111	70	<20	<20

Table 2: Recipients by marital status

Extract Date	Youth Allowance (student)		Youth Allowance (apprentice)		Austudy	
	Partnered	Single	Partnered	Single	Partnered	Single
26/06/2009	50	2196	<20	28	88	152
25/06/2010	47	2332	<20	28	97	159
24/06/2011	40	2765	<20	33	90	135
29/06/2012	66	2130	<20	35	92	173
29/03/2013	94	1720	<20	51	113	194