

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Social Services Portfolio
2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs

Question No: 213

Topic: Social Services

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

Can the Department provide information of what modelling DSS does on Commonwealth payments and population? In what Departmental section is this work done? How many staff are involved?

Answer:

The Budget Estimates Section, Budget Development Branch, maintains expenditure projection models for a range of Government payments to individuals and families; including family payments, and income support payments for people of working age and for seniors, such as Age Pension. Forecasts of payment populations and average rates of payment are made for most Government payments as part of modelling the budget impacts for the current financial year and four forward years. This work is undertaken by an estimated 9 full-time equivalent staff each year.

The Department also undertakes medium-term payment and population projections on an ad hoc basis. This work is done in the Policy Modelling Section, Policy Strategy Branch, and involved an estimated 1 full-time equivalent staff member in 2013-14.