

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

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 285

Topic: Newstart Allowance

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Collins asked:

What analysis/research was undertaken by the Department in regards to:

- Who would be affected by these changes?
- How they will be affected?
- How many people will be affected?
- How people will survive regular 6 monthly cycles (or more) where they do not receive Newstart?
- What the impact of the changes will be on poverty in Australia, i.e. whether the numbers of people living in poverty will increase?
- The increased rates of homelessness as a result of these changes?
- The impact of the changes on mental health in Australia?

Is the Department aware whether any commensurate funding will be invested in areas which are likely to be subjected to significantly increased demand as a result of these changes, for example, housing and homelessness?

Answer:

The number of people affected by the measure was estimated by the Department as part of the Budget process.

Population affected:

Total (2014-15)	Total (2015-16)	Total (2016-17)	Total (2017-18)
78,073	161,595	161,717	152,461

The Government has provided an additional \$229.6 million in job seeker support over four years, from 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2018.