

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

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 345

Topic: Single Parents

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

1. For each of the payments below, could you provide all the current relevant criteria to qualify for the payment?

- (a) Single Parenting Payment
- (b) Clean Energy Supplement
- (c) Family Tax Benefit Part A
- (d) Clean Energy Family Tax Benefit A supplement
- (e) Family Tax Benefit Part B
- (f) Clean Energy Family Tax Benefit B supplement
- (g) Rent Assistance
- (h) Pharmaceutical Allowance
- (i) Family Tax Benefit Part A supplement
- (j) Family Tax Benefit Part B supplement
- (k) Pensioner Education Supplement
- (l) Income Support Bonus
- (m) Telephone Allowance
- (n) Jobs Education Training Child Care Fee Assistance

2. For each of these payments, how many single parents currently receive all of them?

3. For these payments in total, how many single parents currently receive the maximum amount?

4. What would be the situation in terms of income, number of children and ages, employment and study history that would be required for the criteria for all these payments to be met simultaneously?

5. What is the average amount of support payments received by single parents in total?

Answer:

1. The guide to Australian Government Payments includes basic conditions of eligibility for the payments at the following link (<http://www.humanservices.gov.au/corporate/publications-and-resources/a-guide-to-australian-government-payments>).

A comprehensive source of information on qualification for payments can be found in the Guide for Social Security Law and the Family Assistance Guide. These guides are available at the following links (<http://guides.dss.gov.au/guide-social-security-law>) and (<http://guides.dss.gov.au/family-assistance-guide>).

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2. At 28 March 2014, approximately 1,900 of the 259,506 Parenting Payment Single recipients were in receipt all the additional payments listed.

3. At 28 March 2014, of the approximately 1,900 Parenting Payment Single recipients receiving all the additional payments listed, approximately 1,600 were receiving the full rate of the Parenting Payment Single.

4. A Parenting Payment Single recipient undertaking an approved course of study would be eligible to receive all listed payments if they had at least one child aged five years or under in/enrolled in formal child care, provided they met the following income tests for Parenting Payment Single and Jobs Education Training Child Care Fee Assistance (JETCCFA).

- A Parenting Payment Single recipient loses eligibility for income support base payment and supplements when their income from employment or other sources reaches more than \$1,997.35 per fortnight, plus \$24.60 for each child (as at 20 May 2014).
- A person receiving JETCCFA, who is in paid or unpaid employment, can receive JETCCFA for a maximum of 26 weeks and will lose eligibility if their total income reaches \$42,997 per annum (rates correct at 9 July 2014).

5. At 28 March 2014, the average payment of Parenting Payment Single excluding supplementary payments was \$614.45 a fortnight.