

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

**Outcome Number: 1**

**Question No: 379**

**Topic: Waiting periods for under 30's on YA(O) and NSA**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator Siewert** asked:

1. In each of the forward estimates years, as a result of the Newstart/YA changes for under 30s announced in the Budget, how many people under 30 years are estimated to:
- (a) have to serve an extra waiting period on applying for income support (new applicants), and the average wait
  - (b) have to wait a full six months on applying for income support (new applicants)
  - (c) have to serve an extra waiting period after having received income support for less than 6 months (existing recipients) and the average wait
  - (d) have to serve an extra waiting period after receiving income support for 12 months or more, and the average wait
  - (e) have to wait a full six months after receiving income support for 12 months or more?2.
- Please provide estimates of the numbers of people having to serve additional waiting periods in each of the forward estimate years, broken down by:
- (f) State
  - (g) age (18-21, 22-29 yrs)
  - (h) people not employed and not living in the parental home
  - (i) Please include cross tabulations of (a) to (c)

**Answers:**

The maximum period where an applicant may receive no payment will be determined by the individual's requirement to serve waiting periods in addition to the six month waiting period, for example the Ordinary Waiting Period, the Income Maintenance Period, the Liquid Assets Waiting Period, and the waiting period applied to those who move to an area of lower employment prospects. The total waiting period cannot be less than one month (the minimum waiting period); however because waiting periods can also be influenced by an individual's own actions, such as failing to comply with the Activity Test, it is not possible to determine a maximum time that an individual may spend serving waiting periods.

- a) The following table gives the estimated annual average population affected by the Newstart/YA changes for under 30s. The average waiting time cannot be estimated.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total</b>
2014-15	78,073
2015-16	161,595
2016-17	161,717
2017-18	152,461

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b) It is estimated that 60% of income support applicants will be entitled to a waiting period reduction. Based on this assumption, the following table gives the annual average number who will have to wait a full six months on applying for income support.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total</b>
2014-15	31,235
2015-16	64,638
2016-17	64,687
2017-18	60,984

c) – e) The figures asked for in questions c-e have not been estimated by the Department.

f) The following table provides the annual average number of people estimated to be affected by the measure, broken down by State and forward estimate year.

	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>
ACT	711	1,472	1,473	1,389
NSW	22,652	46,890	46,925	44,240
NT	539	1,116	1,117	1,053
QLD	18,279	37,838	37,866	35,699
SA	6,836	14,151	14,161	13,351
TAS	2,493	5,161	5,165	4,870
VIC	20,339	42,103	42,134	39,723
WA	6,198	12,831	12,841	12,106
<b>Total</b>	<b>78,073</b>	<b>161,595</b>	<b>161,717</b>	<b>152,461</b>

g) This data is not available in the requested breakdown and would require significant diversion of resources.

h) This data is not available in the requested breakdown and would require significant diversion of resources.

i) Cross tabulations are not possible as question (c) cannot be answered and would require significant diversion of resources.