

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

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 422

Topic: Apply the One-Week ordinary waiting period to all working age payments

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Brown asked:

How many new applicants for the Widow Allowance were there in the last financial year?

a. Under what circumstance might a new applicant for the Widow Allowance be exempt from the OWP or have the OWP waived?

Answer:

In the financial year 2012-13, there were 4,413 new recipients of Widow Allowance. Note: new recipients include people who have transferred to Widow Allowance from another payment type, have not been on income support recently or are new to income support.

Subject to the passage of legislation, claimants granted Widow Allowance will not have to serve an Ordinary Waiting Period if they:

- received an income support payment at some time in the 13 weeks immediately prior to their start date for Widow Allowance; or
- are undertaking an activity specified by the Secretary by legislative instrument; or
- are experiencing a personal financial crisis.

This is set out in Schedule 6 of the *Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment (2014 Budget Measures No. 1) Bill 2014*, available at www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2014B00126.