

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

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 521

Topic: Indexing Pensions and Non-Pension Payments to CPI

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Brown asked:

Can you please explain exactly what pensions or pension-like payments are going to be impacted by this measure, and the number of people on each payment?

Answer:

Affected payments include Parenting Payment Single, Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment, Wife Pension (Age) and Wife Pension (Disability), Bereavement Allowance, and Widow B Pension. Pensions administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs are also affected. The measure will also affect recipients of allowances who are paid the Parenting Payment Single rate, that is, single principal carers of dependent children who are exempt from the activity test due to foster caring, home schooling, distance education or large family.

There will be no change to the indexation of pensions until 2017, except for Parenting Payment Single which is expected to change in 2014-15, subject to the passage of legislation. Customer numbers are provided for the first year of implementation, 2017-18. The Parenting Payment Single and allowances customer numbers relate to 2014-15.

2017-18 projected pensioners

Age Pension	2,688,000
Disability Support Pension	840,000
Carer Payment	320,000
Bereavement Allowance	200
Wife Pension (Age and Disability)	10,000
Widow B Pension	389

2014-15: Parenting Payment Single 248,800 and 3,500 allowees (single)