

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

**Outcome Number: 1**

**Question No: 528**

**Topic: Indexing Pensions and Non-Pension Payments to CPI**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator Brown asked:**

Has the Department modelled the difference between the current rates of the pension as a result of the 2009 changes compared with what the pension would be if the pension had been indexed to CPI since that time? Can you please provide the difference for single parents on parenting payment, for a single pensioner on the full rate, and for a couple on the full rate?

**Answer:**

	<b>Current maximum basic rate</b>	<b>Maximum basic rate (MBR) at 20 March 2014 with CPI only indexation on and from 20 September 2009</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Single</b>	<b>\$19,916 a year</b>	<b>\$17,856.80 a year</b>	<b>\$2,059.20</b>
	<b>\$766 a fortnight</b>	<b>\$686.80 a fortnight</b>	<b>\$79.20</b>
<b>Couple (each)</b>	<b>\$15,012.40 a year</b>	<b>\$13,460.20 a year</b>	<b>\$1,552.20</b>
	<b>\$577.40 a fortnight</b>	<b>\$517.70 a fortnight</b>	<b>\$59.70</b>
<b>Parenting Payment Single (under age pension age)</b>	<b>\$17,973.80 a year</b>	<b>\$16,229.20 a year</b>	<b>\$1,744.60</b>
	<b>\$691.30 a fortnight</b>	<b>\$624.20 a fortnight</b>	<b>\$67.10</b>

This scenario assumes that CPI only indexation was applied on and from the 20 September 2009 indexation. The figuring includes the \$30 a week increase to single base rate to improve the single-couple ratio implemented from 20 September 2009. The scenario covers only the base rate of pension, and excludes amounts for add-ons such as Pension Supplement, Clean Energy Supplement, Rent Assistance, Carer Allowance and Carer Supplement.