

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

**Outcome Number: 1**

**Question No: 583**

**Topic: Sickness Allowance**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator Brown** asked:

Please provide the current number of people in receipt of Sickness Allowance by:

- a. age;
- b. state/territory;
- c. electorate;
- d. sex;
- e. Indigenous/non-Indigenous status;
- f. condition/disability of person for whom they are caring (if available);
- g. duration on payment (>1yr, 1-2, 2-5, 5-10, 10+);
- h. number and percentage reporting other employment;
- i. number and percentage of people on part rate due to means test;
- j. reported hours of work undertaken;
- k. reported income from employment;
- l. reported income from other assets; and
- m. other payments received.

**Answer:**

The following tables provide the number of Sickness Allowance recipients as at 28 March 2014 according to the breakdown requested. In order to protect the privacy of individuals, populations less than twenty are reported as "<20" and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are not provided "np".

| <b>Table a) Recipients of Sickness Allowance by Age Group</b> |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>Age Group</b>  | <b>Recipients</b> |
| 21-24   | 458               |
| 25-29   | 711               |
| 30-34   | 718               |
| 35-39   | 748               |
| 40-44   | 924               |
| 45-49   | 1000              |
| 50-54   | 1179              |
| 55-59   | 1015              |
| 60-64   | 757               |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>7510</b>       |

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

| <b>Table b) Recipients of Sickness Allowance by State</b> |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>State</b>  | <b>Recipients</b> |
| New South Wales   | 2088              |
| Victoria  | 2044              |
| Queensland  | 1803              |
| Western Australia   | 631               |
| South Australia   | 592               |
| Tasmania  | 187               |
| Australian Capital Territory                              | 98                |
| Northern Territory  | 64                |
| Unknown   | 3                 |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>7510</b>       |

**Table c) Recipients of Sickness Allowance by Electorate**

| <b>State of Commonwealth Electoral Division (ASGS 2013)</b> | <b>Commonwealth Electoral Division (ASGS 2013)</b> | <b>Sickness Allowance</b> |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| Australian Capital Territory                                | Canberra   | 56                        |
| Australian Capital Territory                                | Fraser   | 42                        |
| New South Wales   | Banks  | 38                        |
| New South Wales   | Barton   | 38                        |
| New South Wales   | Bennelong  | 26                        |
| New South Wales   | Berowra  | <20                       |
| New South Wales   | Blaxland   | 55                        |
| New South Wales   | Bradfield  | <20                       |
| New South Wales   | Calare   | 62                        |
| New South Wales   | Charlton   | 45                        |
| New South Wales   | Chifley  | 64                        |
| New South Wales   | Cook   | 25                        |
| New South Wales   | Cowper   | 66                        |
| New South Wales   | Cunningham   | 37                        |
| New South Wales   | Dobell   | 59                        |
| New South Wales   | Eden-Monaro  | 39                        |
| New South Wales   | Farrer   | 58                        |
| New South Wales   | Fowler   | 47                        |
| New South Wales   | Gilmore  | 46                        |
| New South Wales   | Grayndler  | 43                        |
| New South Wales   | Greenway   | 32                        |
| New South Wales   | Hughes   | 22                        |

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

| <b>State of Commonwealth Electoral Division (ASGS 2013)</b> | <b>Commonwealth Electoral Division (ASGS 2013)</b> | <b>Sickness Allowance</b> |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| New South Wales   | Hume   | 41                        |
| New South Wales   | Hunter   | 40                        |
| New South Wales   | Kingsford Smith                                    | 32                        |
| New South Wales   | Lindsay  | 51                        |
| New South Wales   | Lyne   | 43                        |
| New South Wales   | Macarthur  | 37                        |
| New South Wales   | Mackellar  | 34                        |
| New South Wales   | Macquarie  | 54                        |
| New South Wales   | McMahon  | 43                        |
| New South Wales   | Mitchell   | 25                        |
| New South Wales   | New England  | 46                        |
| New South Wales   | Newcastle  | 42                        |
| New South Wales   | North Sydney                                       | <20                       |
| New South Wales   | Page   | 73                        |
| New South Wales   | Parkes   | 39                        |
| New South Wales   | Parramatta   | 61                        |
| New South Wales   | Paterson   | 63                        |
| New South Wales   | Reid   | 33                        |
| New South Wales   | Richmond   | 82                        |
| New South Wales   | Riverina   | 46                        |
| New South Wales   | Robertson  | 46                        |
| New South Wales   | Shortland  | 54                        |
| New South Wales   | Sydney   | 29                        |
| New South Wales   | Throsby  | 65                        |
| New South Wales   | Warringah  | 22                        |
| New South Wales   | Watson   | 53                        |
| New South Wales   | Wentworth  | 22                        |
| New South Wales   | Werriwa  | 62                        |
| Northern Territory  | Lingiari   | 26                        |
| Northern Territory  | Solomon  | 38                        |
| Queensland  | Blair  | 57                        |
| Queensland  | Bonner   | 30                        |
| Queensland  | Bowman   | 62                        |
| Queensland  | Brisbane   | 34                        |
| Queensland  | Capricornia  | 63                        |
| Queensland  | Dawson   | 65                        |

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

| <b>State of Commonwealth Electoral Division (ASGS 2013)</b> | <b>Commonwealth Electoral Division (ASGS 2013)</b> | <b>Sickness Allowance</b> |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| Queensland  | Dickson  | 46                        |
| Queensland  | Fadden   | 65                        |
| Queensland  | Fairfax  | 81                        |
| Queensland  | Fisher   | 58                        |
| Queensland  | Flynn  | 59                        |
| Queensland  | Forde  | 70                        |
| Queensland  | Griffith   | 41                        |
| Queensland  | Groom  | 46                        |
| Queensland  | Herbert  | 50                        |
| Queensland  | Hinkler  | 77                        |
| Queensland  | Kennedy  | 59                        |
| Queensland  | Leichhardt   | 86                        |
| Queensland  | Lilley   | 56                        |
| Queensland  | Longman  | 77                        |
| Queensland  | Maranoa  | 55                        |
| Queensland  | Mcperson   | 67                        |
| Queensland  | Moncrieff  | 73                        |
| Queensland  | Moreton  | 42                        |
| Queensland  | Oxley  | 59                        |
| Queensland  | Petrie   | 57                        |
| Queensland  | Rankin   | 85                        |
| Queensland  | Ryan   | 30                        |
| Queensland  | Wide Bay   | 79                        |
| Queensland  | Wright   | 75                        |
| South Australia   | Adelaide   | 38                        |
| South Australia   | Barker   | 74                        |
| South Australia   | Boothby  | 38                        |
| South Australia   | Grey   | 65                        |
| South Australia   | Hindmarsh  | 51                        |
| South Australia   | Kingston   | 74                        |
| South Australia   | Makin  | 45                        |
| South Australia   | Mayo   | 42                        |
| South Australia   | Port Adelaide                                      | 65                        |
| South Australia   | Sturt  | 27                        |
| South Australia   | Wakefield  | 73                        |
| Tasmania  | Bass   | 38                        |

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

| <b>State of Commonwealth Electoral Division (ASGS 2013)</b> | <b>Commonwealth Electoral Division (ASGS 2013)</b> | <b>Sickness Allowance</b> |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| Tasmania  | Braddon  | 35                        |
| Tasmania  | Denison  | 42                        |
| Tasmania  | Franklin   | 30                        |
| Tasmania  | Lyons  | 42                        |
| Victoria  | Aston  | 51                        |
| Victoria  | Ballarat   | 76                        |
| Victoria  | Batman   | 56                        |
| Victoria  | Bendigo  | 77                        |
| Victoria  | Bruce  | 57                        |
| Victoria  | Calwell  | 70                        |
| Victoria  | Casey  | 60                        |
| Victoria  | Chisholm   | 25                        |
| Victoria  | Corangamite  | 46                        |
| Victoria  | Corio  | 72                        |
| Victoria  | Deakin   | 47                        |
| Victoria  | Dunkley  | 73                        |
| Victoria  | Flinders   | 76                        |
| Victoria  | Gellibrand   | 48                        |
| Victoria  | Gippsland  | 67                        |
| Victoria  | Goldstein  | 28                        |
| Victoria  | Gorton   | 92                        |
| Victoria  | Higgins  | <20                       |
| Victoria  | Holt   | 79                        |
| Victoria  | Hotham   | 44                        |
| Victoria  | Indi   | 59                        |
| Victoria  | Isaacs   | 38                        |
| Victoria  | Jagajaga   | 51                        |
| Victoria  | Kooyong  | <20                       |
| Victoria  | La Trobe   | 47                        |
| Victoria  | Lalor  | 87                        |
| Victoria  | Mallee   | 69                        |
| Victoria  | Maribyrnong  | 49                        |
| Victoria  | Mcewen   | 96                        |
| Victoria  | Mcmillan   | 65                        |
| Victoria  | Melbourne  | 28                        |
| Victoria  | Melbourne Ports                                    | 36                        |

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

| <b>State of Commonwealth Electoral Division (ASGS 2013)</b> | <b>Commonwealth Electoral Division (ASGS 2013)</b> | <b>Sickness Allowance</b> |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| Victoria  | Menzies  | 27                        |
| Victoria  | Murray   | 44                        |
| Victoria  | Scullin  | 64                        |
| Victoria  | Wannon   | 60                        |
| Victoria  | Wills  | 43                        |
| Western Australia   | Brand  | 74                        |
| Western Australia   | Canning  | 60                        |
| Western Australia   | Cowan  | 48                        |
| Western Australia   | Curtin   | <20                       |
| Western Australia   | Durack   | 30                        |
| Western Australia   | Forrest  | 52                        |
| Western Australia   | Fremantle  | 34                        |
| Western Australia   | Hasluck  | 51                        |
| Western Australia   | Moore  | 48                        |
| Western Australia   | O'Connor   | 47                        |
| Western Australia   | Pearce   | 40                        |
| Western Australia   | Perth  | 48                        |
| Western Australia   | Stirling   | 27                        |
| Western Australia   | Swan   | 47                        |
| Western Australia   | Tangney  | <20                       |
| Unknown   | Unknown  | <20                       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |  | <b>7510</b>               |

| <b>Table d) Recipients of Sickness Allowance by Gender</b> |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| <b>Gender</b>  | <b>Recipients</b> |
| Males  | 4198              |
| Females  | 3312              |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>7510</b>       |

| <b>Table e) Recipients of Sickness Allowance by Indigenous Indicator</b> |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| <b>Indigenous Indicator</b>  | <b>Recipients</b> |
| Indigenous   | 271               |
| Non-Indigenous   | 7239              |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>7510</b>       |

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

| <b>Table f) Recipients of Sickness Allowance by Medical Condition</b> (note: Recipients can have more than 1 medical condition) |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>Medical Condition</b>  | <b>Recipients</b> |
| Musculo/Skeletal & Connective Tissue  | 3357              |
| Psychological/Psychiatric   | 2539              |
| Cancer/Tumour   | 800               |
| Circulatory System  | 527               |
| Nervous System  | 287               |
| Gastro-Intestinal System  | 249               |
| Endocrine & Immune System   | 191               |
| Poorly Defined Cause  | 128               |
| Respiratory System  | 122               |
| Chronic Pain  | 120               |
| Sense Organs  | 101               |
| Acquired Brain Impairment   | 92                |
| Reproductive System   | 87                |
| Urogenital System   | 71                |
| Infectious Diseases   | 58                |
| Visceral Disorder   | 49                |
| Congenital Abnormalities  | 28                |
| Amputation  | 25                |
| Intellectual/ Learning  | <20               |
| Skin Disorder & Burns   | <20               |
| Inherited Disorders   | <20               |

| <b>Table g) Recipients of Sickness Allowance by Duration on Sickness Allowance</b> |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| <b>Duration on Payment</b>   | <b>Recipients</b> |
| Less Than 1 Year   | 6926              |
| 1 - 2 Years  | 435               |
| 2 - 5 Years  | np                |
| 5 - 10 Years   | <20               |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>7510</b>       |

| <b>Table h) Recipients of Sickness Allowance by Earnings</b> |                   |          |
|--|-------------------|----------|
| <b>Earnings Last Fortnight</b>                               | <b>Recipients</b> | <b>%</b> |
| Had Earnings   | 614               | 8.2      |
| No Earnings  | 6896              | 91.8     |

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

| <b>Table i) Recipients of Sickness Allowance by Rate</b> |                   |          |
|--|-------------------|----------|
| <b>Rate</b>  | <b>Recipients</b> | <b>%</b> |
| Full Rate  | 6146              | 81.8     |
| Part Rate  | 1288              | 17.2     |
| Undetermined Rate  | 76                | 0        |

| <b>Table j) Recipients of Sickness Allowance by hours worked last fortnight</b> |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>Hours worked last fortnight</b>  | <b>Recipients</b> |
| No hours  | 6928              |
| 1 - 14 hours  | 186               |
| 15 - 29 hours   | 213               |
| 30 hours +  | 183               |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>7510</b>       |

| <b>Table k) Recipients of Sickness Allowance by earnings last fortnight</b> |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>Earnings last fortnight</b>  | <b>Recipients</b> |
| Nil earnings  | 6896              |
| \$1 - \$61  | np                |
| \$62 - \$235  | 114               |
| \$236 - \$249   | <20               |
| \$250 Plus  | 450               |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>7510</b>       |

| <b>Table l) Recipients of Sickness Allowance by earnings from other sources</b> |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>Earnings per fortnight from other sources</b>                                | <b>Recipients</b> |
| Nil earnings  | 2101              |
| \$1 - \$61  | 4958              |
| \$62 - \$235  | 247               |
| \$236 - \$249   | <20               |
| \$250 Plus  | np                |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>7510</b>       |



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

| <b>Table m) Recipients of Sickness Allowance receiving a supplementary payment</b> |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| <b>(note: Recipients can receive more than 1 supplement)</b>                       |                   |
| <b>Supplementary payment</b>   | <b>Recipients</b> |
| Carer Allowance  | 138               |
| Clean Energy Supplement  | 7434              |
| Family Tax Benefit   | 724               |
| Mobility Allowance   | <20               |
| Pharmaceutical Allowance   | 7417              |
| Remote Area Allowance  | 99                |
| Rent Assistance  | 2587              |
| Telephone Allowance  | 230               |
| Income Support Bonus   | 4795              |

Source: Department of Human Services Administrative Data (DSS Extract)