

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2016-17 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 1.9 Income Support for Carers

Question No: SQ16-000280

Topic: Carer Allowance

Hansard page: 91

Senator Siewert, Rachel asked:

In regards to the backdated Carer Allowance, what is the average amount of back pay?

Answer:

The current backdating arrangements allow for Carer Allowance payments to be backdated for up to 12 weeks, before the claim is lodged or first contact is made with the Department of Human Services (DHS).

The 2016-17 Budget measure removes the 'pre claim backdating' from 1 January 2017.

Carer Allowance recipients will continue to have their payments backdated to the date of claim or contact with DHS upon implementation of the measure. The measure will not change the eligibility criteria for Carer Allowance nor impact on the number of new claims granted each year. No individual currently receiving Carer Allowance will be impacted by this measure.

In 2014-15, approximately 33 per cent of the new Carer Allowance grants received 'pre claim backdating'. The average amount of the 'pre claim backdating' was approximately 3.7 fortnights or \$448.10.

Data used in these calculations has been sourced from DHS administrative data for 2014-15.