

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2017-18 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 1.9 Income Support for Carers

Question No: SQ17-000440

Topic: Income Support For Carers

Hansard page: Written

Senator Carol Brown asked:

The one-off energy assistance payment is attached to the Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Parenting Payment Single, and some veterans' pensions. Can the Government provide a rationale and explanation as to why the energy assistance payment has not been extended to carers?

Answer:

In 2017-18, the Government will pay a one-off Energy Assistance Payment. The payment will help: 2.5 million Age Pension recipients; 770,000 Disability Support Pension recipients; 260,000 Parenting Payment Single recipients, and 235,000 veterans and their partners paid the Service Pension and the Income Support Supplement and relevant compensation payments.

Recipients of Carer Allowance also receive assistance through the Carer Supplement, which is an annual \$600 payment for each person whom they care. An additional \$600 Carer Supplement is paid to recipients of Carer Payment. This payment is made during the month of July each year.

Recipients of Carer Allowance who are caring for a child aged under 16 years also receive the annual \$1,000 Child Disability Assistance Payment.