

## Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

### SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES – 21 OCTOBER 2010 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Human Services Portfolio

**Topic:** Vulnerable Classification

**Question reference number:** HS 17

**Senator:** SIEWERT

**Type of question:** Hansard CA page 133

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 10 December 2010

**Number of pages:** 2

#### **Question:**

a)

**Senator SIEWERT** - I would like to go back to the number of people that have been classified as vulnerable. I may have taken these figures down wrongly, and if I have I apologise. I noted 30 to 35 people. That may be one that FaHCSIA said that I needed to ask you to confirm.

**Ms Cartwright** - I would like to take that one on notice and perhaps provide you with that answer tomorrow.

**Senator SIEWERT** - It would be appreciated if you could.

b)

**Senator SIEWERT** - I am being very conscious, at the moment, of not trying to ask you to identify regions because of the relatively low numbers, but I am interested to know broadly—I will probably have to ask next time—which areas of people with vulnerability are being assessed as vulnerable and which are getting exemptions.

**Ms Ramsey** - The numbers are still developing in the Darwin area, because the rollout has not been completed. We may be able to provide it in zones rather than locations.

**Senator SIEWERT** - Zones would be very useful.

**Ms Cartwright** - My data says 27 customers have been assessed for income management under the vulnerable status, but I will confirm that tomorrow.

**Senator SIEWERT** - Thank you. Also, if it is possible, can you highlight which ones come from the age pension strain and DSP. Is that possible?

**Ms Cartwright** - I might not be able to provide that tomorrow, but I can certainly take it on notice.

**Answer:**

- a) The number of people classified as vulnerable as of 24 September 2010 was 30. A breakdown of this number is provided in the table below.

<b>Zone</b>		<b>Total</b>
1	Barkly Shire	2
2	Alice Springs Municipality, MacDonnell Shire, Katherine Municipality, Roper Gulf Shire and East Arnhem Shire	18
3	Central Desert Shire, Victoria-Daly Shire, Tiwi Island Shire, Belyuen Shire, Coomalie Shire and West Arnhem Shire	10
4	Darwin, Palmerston Municipality, Litchfield Shire and Wagait Shire	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>30</b>

- b) Of the 30 customers under the Vulnerable measure:
- 27 are in receipt of Disability Support Pension; and
  - 3 are in receipt of Age Pension.

Customers who are assessed as being income managed under the Vulnerable measure cannot apply for an exemption.

Customers under the Vulnerable measure do have access to the full range of appeal options.