

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 4

Question No: 300

Topic: Income support for Seniors

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

In relation to the Age Pension, please provide:

1. Number of recipients of the age pension;
2. Administered outlays for the age pension;
3. Percentage and number of recipients on part rate age pension due to the means test;
4. Ratio of assessed income of pensioners on the age pension to their total income;
5. Percentage and number of senior Australians who receive age pension payment;
6. Percentage and number of recipients on age pension with employment income;
7. Percentage and number of new entrants with employment income;
8. Payment accuracy; and
9. Please provide the estimated costs, over the forward estimates, of the age pension payment.

Answer:

1. As at 30 September 2013, there were 2,363,228 Age Pension recipients (source: unpublished Department of Human Services administrative data).
2. In 2012-13, the outlays for the Age Pension were \$36.28 billion (source: 2012-13 Annual Report for the former Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs).
3. As at 30 September 2013, 41.1 per cent of Age Pension recipients or 971,783 age pensioners were receiving a part-rate of pension due to the means test (source: unpublished Department of Human Services administrative data).
4. As at 30 June 2013, the ratio of assessed income of age pensioners to the total income of age pensioners was \$23.47 : \$100 (source: 2012-13 Annual Report for the former Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs).
5. As at 30 June 2013, 68.4 per cent of the estimated resident Australian seniors population were in receipt of the Age Pension. That is, there were 2,356,200 age pensioners out of an eligible Australian resident seniors population of 3,442,600 (source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Population Projections, Australia*, Cat. No. 3.222.0, series B, June 2013 and 2012-13 Annual Report for the former Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs).
6. As at 30 September 2013, 4.1 per cent of Age Pension recipients or 97,850 age pensioners had employment income. Between October 2012 and October 2013, around 151,000 age pensioners had employment income at some time in the previous 12 month period (source: unpublished Department of Human Services administrative data).

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7. As at 30 September 2013, 11.7 per cent of new Age Pension recipients or 18,617 new age pensioners had employment income. New entrants to the Age Pension are defined as people who commenced Age Pension within the previous 12 months (source: unpublished Department of Human Services administrative data).
8. As at 30 June 2013, Age Pension payment accuracy was 97.85 per cent (source: 2012-13 Annual Report for the former Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs).
9. The Age Pension appropriation forward estimates are shown in the table below.

2013-14 \$billion	2014-15 \$billion	2015-16 \$billion	2016-17 \$billion
\$ 39.3	\$ 41.9	\$ 44.9	\$ 48.3

Source: 2013-14 Portfolio Budget Statement for the former Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs