Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 23-24 OCTOBER 2014
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Advance Payments

Question reference number: HS 148

Senator: Siewert
Type of question: Written
Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 12 December 2014
Number of pages: 2

Question:

a) For 2013-14, how many Advance Payments were made, by payment type?

b) Provide details of the cost of the advances paid, for each payment type.

c) Where more than one advance is allowed, how many on each payment access this option?

d) Has the Department undertaken any analysis of the use of advances, or a cost-benefit analysis of this option?

e) Is the Department aware of any research taken into this option? If so, please provide a link to the research.

Answer:

a), b) and c)

Payment type	Number of Advance Payments	Total amount paid	Number of customers who have accessed more than one advance in financial year*
Abstudy	3,406	$1,625,567.90	n/a
Age Pension	263,968	$217,471,616.35	87,003
Austudy	11,580	$5,512,203.45	n/a
Carer Payment	167,262	$139,494,259.89	56,889
Disability Support Pension	627,658	$548,769,030.72	221,681
Family Tax Benefit	908,391	$470,683,372.18	261,416
Mobility Allowance	6,359	$7,793,868.90	n/a
Newstart Allowance	355,692	$169,877,078.61	n/a
Parenting Payment (partnered)	35,135	$16,982,408.11	n/a
Parenting Payment (single)	141,144	$69,198,153.42	n/a
Widow Allowance	4,526	$2,219,054.80	n/a
Widow B Pension	<20**	$8,040.80	<20**

Wife (Age) Pension	2,212	$1,690,504.69	738
Wife (DSP)Pension	3,558	$2,705,501.13	1,188
Youth Allowance	111,021	$51,286,050.32	n/a

* n/a indicates the payment only allows for one Advance to be paid per year.

** Confidentiality Provision: All cells that have a value of less than 20, including zero, have been changed to display '<20'. This rule has been employed for privacy reasons. Where the total fields are included these will only have a value when it does not make it possible to work out the value of any '<20' fields.

d) The department has not undertaken analysis of the use of advance payments or cost-benefit analysis of this option..

e) The department is not aware of any research on use of advance payments.