

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

Department of Human Services

Topic: Amount of Overpayments

Question reference number: HS 158

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written

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Question:

Provide details of the number (and percentage) of income support recipients with Centrelink overpayments for 2013-14:

- a) in total;
- b) by payment type;
- c) by payment type and Indigenous/non Indigenous status; and
- d) by state and territory.

Answer:

- a) The following table provides the number and percentage of income support recipients with Centrelink overpayments for 2013-14

Income support recipients with Centrelink overpayments for 2013-14	
Number of Customers with an Overpayment	Percentage of Customers with an Overpayment
893,045	13.13%

Note: The percentages have been rounded to two decimal points. Using rounded figures may result in discrepancies in individual calculations of the number of customers with an overpayment.

- b) The following table provides the number and percentage of income support recipients with Centrelink overpayments for 2013-14, by payment type.

Payment Type	Total Number of Customers with an Overpayment	Percent of Total Customers with an Overpayment (%)
ABSTUDY	5,812	11.49%
Age Pension	71,571	2.87%
Austudy	18,678	22.61%
Carers	32,399	12.18%
Disability Support	61,066	7.10%
Family Tax Benefit	513,847	27.92%
Newstart Allowance	249,732	21.82%
Other	26,971	14.92%
Parenting Payment Partnered	48,645	30.93%
Parenting Payment Single	95,749	29.98%
Youth Allowance	87,376	15.81%

Note 1: While each customer is only counted once within each payment type, some customers receive more than one payment. As a result, the combined number of customers in this table is more than the total number of individual (Answer (a)).

Note 2: The percentages have been rounded to 2 decimal points. Using these rounded figures may result in discrepancies in individual calculations of the number of customers with an overpayment.

- c) The following table provides the number and percentage of income support recipients with Centrelink overpayments for 2013-14, by payment type and Indigenous/Non-Indigenous status.

Payment type	Number and Percentage of Income Support Recipients with Centrelink Overpayments for 2013-14			
	No. of Indigenous customers with an overpayment	% of Indigenous customers with an overpayment	No. of Non-Indigenous customers with an overpayment	% of Non-Indigenous customers with an overpayment
ABSTUDY	5,649	11.40%	163	15.49%
Age Pension	971	5.94%	70,600	2.85%
Austudy	184	38.02%	18,494	22.52%
Carers	3,126	23.01%	29,273	11.60%
Disability Support Pension	5,640	11.58%	55,426	6.83%
Family Tax Benefit	30,652	33.23%	483,195	27.64%
Newstart Allowance	25,886	28.15%	223,846	21.26%
Parenting Payment Partnered	5,017	38.17%	43,628	30.27%
Parenting Payment Single	12,175	30.95%	83,574	29.84%
Youth Allowance	8,789	25.47%	78,587	15.16%
Other	2,007	23.22%	24,964	14.50%

Note 1: While each customer is only counted once within each payment type, some customers have overpayments in more than one payment type. As a result, the combined number of customers in this table is more than the total number of individual customers with an overpayment (Answer (a)).

Note 2: The percentages have been rounded to two decimal points. Using these rounded figures may result in discrepancies in individual calculations of the number of customers with an overpayment.

Note 3: While ABSTUDY customers are required to make a declaration of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent as part of the claim process, coding of the Indigenous Indicator on a customer record is a manual process. If this coding is omitted the ABSTUDY customer may not have an Indigenous Indicator coded on their record.

- d) The following table provides the number and percentage of income support recipients with Centrelink overpayments for 2013-14, by state and territory.

State/Territory	Number and Percentage of Income Support Recipients with Centrelink Overpayments for 2013-14	
	Number of Customers with Overpayment	Percentage of Current Customers with an Overpayment (%)
ACT	10,180	13.93%
NSW	269,852	12.37%
NT	13,242	20.08%
QLD	210,396	15.26%
SA	66,185	11.82%
TAS	21,567	11.26%
VIC	211,913	12.46%
WA	87,778	14.82%
Other*	1,932	3.43%
Total	893,045	13.13%

* Other - where the address is unknown or overseas address

Note: The percentages have been rounded to 2 decimal points. Using these rounded figures may result in discrepancies in individual calculations of the number of customers with an overpayment.