

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 22 OCTOBER 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Grandparents raising grandchildren

Question reference number: HS 77

Senator: Cameron

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 December 2015

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) Does Centrelink collect data on grandparents in receipt of payment for the care of their grandchildren?
- b) How is this data collected?
- c) How many grandparents collect Parenting payment in respect of care of a grandchild?
- d) How many grandparents collect Carer Payment in respect of care of a grandchild with a disability?
- e) How many grandparents collect FTB A in respect of care of a grandchild?
- f) How may grandparents collect FTB B in respect of care of a grandchild?
- g) How may grandparents collect other payments and identify that they have primary care of a grandchild?

Answer:

- a) Yes.
- b) Where relevant, as part of the claim process for payments, the Department asks customers to identify the nature of their relationship to children in their care.
- c) The Department does not collect this information. The Department only collects information about whether a person is claiming a payment in relation to the grandchildren for whom they are caring if it is relevant to their eligibility for payment.
- d) The Department does not collect this information. The Department only collects information about whether a person is claiming a payment in relation to the grandchildren for whom they are caring if it is relevant to their eligibility for payment.
- e) As at 30 June 2015 for the 2012-13 financial year, 18,754 customers received Family Tax Benefit Part A as a grandparent in respect of one or more grandchildren.
- f) As at 30 June 2015 for the 2012-13 financial year, 17,779 customers received Family Tax Benefit Part B as a grandparent in respect of one or more grandchildren.

- g) The Department only collects information about whether a person is claiming a payment in relation to the grandchildren for whom they are caring if it is relevant to their eligibility for payment.

Besides Family Tax Benefit, customers who identify they are a grandparent with primary care for one or more grandchildren can claim the special grandparent rate of Child Care Benefit (Grandparent Child Care Benefit). As at 17 September 2015 for the 2014-15 financial year, 4,686 Child Care Benefit customers received Grandparent Child Care Benefit for one or more grandchildren.