

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates, 1 to 4 June 2004

Question: Bud 76

Topic: Co-Contribution Scheme

Hansard Page: E9

Senator Sherry asked:

As to the budget estimate for that figure of 2004-05 for the payment, what number of people or individuals was that based on?

Dr Rothman—I am just trying to remember the actual number. I do not have that detail on the number in front of me. The way that number was constructed was that it was based on the actual number of people who currently make member contributions. So there are people already making member contributions who, under the new scheme, would be eligible. We take eligibility into account. We have a sample file of taxpayers without individual details so that we cannot recognise the people. We have a sample of that from the tax office. Basically, it is the surcharge data set. That gives us a base of people who are currently or already making it without any behavioural change. That is the last available file. It is a couple of years out of date—or, rather, not out of date but the best available. We have to move that along a couple of years and then add some behavioural change.

Senator SHERRY—Yes, I remember this discussion with Mr Gallagher, but do we have the figure?

Mr Tilley—We can check. We can take it on notice.

Answer:

As stated later in this hearing, the 2004-05 payment is based on 540,000 eligible individuals.