

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2006-2007 ADDITIONAL SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
15 FEBRUARY 2007
EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 1: **Efficient and effective labour market assistance**

Output Group 1.1: **Working age payments**

Output 1.1.1: **Working age payments and compliance**

Question Number: **W1090-07**

Question:

Senator Wong asked at *Hansard* pages 13 and 14: What are the customer types the department uses in the model for income support estimates? Furthermore, what average rate was applied over the forward estimates period for each of those customer types?

Answer: For each income support programme, the department uses the trend in total customer numbers to project customer numbers over the Budget and Forward Years. These projections take into account projected movements in customer numbers due to Government measures, which may be targeted at specific customer types. The department's estimates do not project total numbers for specific types of customers for income support payments.

For each income support programme, the department uses the trend in overall average rates to project average rates over the Budget and Forward Years. These projections take into account the effects of the indexation of maximum rates and the effects of projected movements in the income tests where applicable, and also movements in expenditure due to Government measures, which again may be targeted at specific customer types. The department's estimates do not project overall average rates for specific types of customers.

Estimated cost: Using the FOI calculator, to prepare this answer it has taken approximately 2 hours at an estimated cost of \$35.