

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

**Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0531\_11**

**Senator Siewert provided in writing.**

**Question**

**HISTORIC PAYMENT RATE DATA**

Can you provide data on annual values of the following over the past two decades:

- i. single pension rates
- ii. single Newstart Allowance rates
- iii. single Youth Allowance (away from home) rates
- iv. couples pension rates
- v. couples Newstart Allowance rates
- vi. couples Youth Allowance (away from home) rates
- vii. single parents pension rates
- viii. single parents Newstart Allowance rates
- ix. single parents Youth Allowance (away from home) rates
- x. cut out points for all the above payments
- xi. MTAW, AWOTE for fulltime adults,
- xii. Median fulltime ordinary time earnings
- xiii. Median fulltime total earnings
- xiv. minimum wages
- xv. CPI

**Answer**

i – ix: Historical fortnightly rates for Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance, Parenting Payment (Single) and pensions are published at Chapter 5.2 of the Guide to the Social Security Law at [www.fahcsia.gov.au/guides\\_acts/ssg/ssguide-5/ssguide-5.2.html](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/guides_acts/ssg/ssguide-5/ssguide-5.2.html).

x: Historical income and assets limits for Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance, Parenting Payment and pensions are published at Chapter 4.10 of the Guide to the Social Security Law at [www.fahcsia.gov.au/guides\\_acts/ssg/ssguide-4/ssguide-4.10.html](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/guides_acts/ssg/ssguide-4/ssguide-4.10.html).

Information on income test cut out points prior to 2007 is not readily available. Information on the cut out points under the income tests from 1 January 2007 is available in the quarterly *A guide to Australian Government payments* on Centrelink's website at [www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/publications/co029.htm](http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/publications/co029.htm) (refer Charts C and D).

The cut out points can be calculated by applying the historical income test for the relevant payment against the historical fortnightly rates found at Chapter 5.2 of the Guide to the Social Security Law.

- xi – xiii: The Australian Bureau of Statistics publishes historical data for the MTAW, AWOTE for full time adults, median full time ordinary time earnings and median full time earnings at [www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6302.0/](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6302.0/).
- xiv: Fair Work Australia publishes previous National Wage and Safety net reviews and decisions at [www.fwa.gov.au/index.cfm?pagename=cdnrwcdecisions](http://www.fwa.gov.au/index.cfm?pagename=cdnrwcdecisions).
- xv: Historical CPI rates are available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics at [www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6401.0](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6401.0).