

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Human Services and agencies

Additional Estimates 2005-2006, 14 February 2006

Question: HS 11

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Centrelink - Rent Assistance

Hansard Page: F&PA 125

SENATOR MOORE asked 14/2/2006:

'Eligible tenants may be able to claim four years rent assistance arrears as well as their current entitlement.' Is that right? In itself, that is a large backdate. If that is true, can you tell us how many people are eligible for that?

Answer:

No, this is not correct. Rent Assistance is paid with the customers primary income support payment and backdated in accordance with either the *Social Security Act 1991* or the *Family Assistance Act 1999*. For customers receiving Rent Assistance with their Family Tax Benefit, their payment may be backdated for up to two financial years depending on a range of eligibility criteria. This is the largest arrears payment a customer could be eligible for.

This answer required 1 hour 10 minutes at a cost of \$50.00 to prepare.