

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 47

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: Centrelink - Review of Payment Recipients' Property Holdings

Written Question on Notice:

SENATOR EVANS asked on 14/2/2006:

Review of payment recipients' property holdings:

Provide an update to the information provided in response to parts (2) to (7) of question on notice HS32 from November Estimates review of payment recipients' property holdings.

Parts 2 to 7 of HS32 are:

2. Review of payment recipients' property holdings.
3. Can we have a breakdown of the number, by payment type, of all recipients with real estate holdings that are additional to their principal residence?
4. How many of these real estate holdings have been reviewed in each of the past five financial years?
5. Can Centrelink please provide figures for the 2004-05 financial year in the format used in the response to question on notice HS 41 from February Estimates.
6. Please also provide these figures for the 2005-06 financial year (to date).
7. For each of the last four financial years (2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05), please indicate the number of appeals against real estate review outcomes that have occurred. Please indicate the number of appeals that were affirmed and rejected. Please provide this information for each stage of the appeal process (ARO, SSAT, AAT).

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Answer:

2. Please see the following tables for updated information with regard to Centrelink review activity regarding customer real estate holdings.
3. The following table provides data on the number and types of customers with real estate holdings that are additional to their own home.

Payment Type	Customers With Real Estate (other than own home)
Age Pension	137,327
Disability Support Pension	44,989
Parenting Payment Single	27,727
Newstart Allowance	19,291
Parenting Payment Partnered	11,172
Carer Payment	9,205
Partner Allowance	5,588
Widow Allowance	3,704
Wife Pension (DSP)	2,584
Exceptional Circumstances Payment	2,411
Wife Pension (Age)	1,455
Austudy	1,451
Newstart Mature Age Allowance	1,269
Sickness Allowance	553
Youth Allowance	517
Farm Family Restart Scheme	157
Abstudy	80
Special Benefit	45
Bereavement Allowance	8
Widow Pension class B	4
TOTAL	269,537

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4, 5, 6 Centrelink is only able to provide real estate review data from 2002-03 due to significant system changes that occurred at that time.

Centrelink Review Activity for Real Estate – Financial Year 2002-03

Program	Number of Reviews Completed	Number of Cancellations	Reductions in Payment	Fortnightly Savings \$
Age Pension [1]	14,390	81	3,090	260,553
Austudy Payment	86	18	4	5,641
Carer Payment	136	12	34	6,228
Carer Allowance	8	0	0	0
Disability Support Pension [2]	622	25	192	19,823
Family Tax Benefit	70	1	8	2,309
Mobility Allowance	1	0	0	0
Newstart Allowance [3]	731	98	56	34,563
Parenting Payment Partnered	343	42	43	16,051
Parenting Payment Single	380	25	55	13,892
Partner Allowance	203	21	32	7,490
Sickness Allowance	27	3	2	1,192
Special Benefit	2	0	1	0
Widow Allowance	51	10	9	4,386
Youth Allowance	3	0	0	0
TOTAL	17,053	336	3,526	372,128

NOTE:

1. Age Pension includes Wife Pension (Age) and Widow B Pension.
2. Disability Support Pension includes Wife Pension (DSP).
3. Newstart Allowance includes Mature Age Allowance.

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Centrelink Review Activity for Real Estate – Financial Year 2003-04

Program	Number of Reviews Completed	Number of Cancellations	Reductions in Payment	Fortnightly Savings \$
Age Pension [1]	19,169	103	3,859	342,130
Austudy Payment	24	7	2	2,116
Carer Payment	31	3	8	1,736
Carer Allowance	6	0	0	0
Disability Support Pension [2]	142	6	39	5,891
Family Tax Benefit	12	0	1	336
Newstart Allowance [3]	192	20	17	8,715
Parenting Payment Partnered	97	23	13	9,641
Parenting Payment Single	81	9	12	4,554
Partner Allowance	55	8	15	3,958
Sickness Allowance	4	0	0	0
Widow Allowance	12	2	2	703
Youth Allowance	2	0	1	199
	19,827	181	3,969	379,979

NOTE:

1. Age Pension includes Wife Pension (Age) and Widow B Pension.
2. Disability Support Pension includes Wife Pension (DSP).
3. Newstart Allowance includes Mature Age Allowance.

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Centrelink Review Activity for Real Estate – Financial Year 2004-05

Program	Number of Reviews Completed	Number of Cancellations	Reductions in Payment (1)	Fortnightly Savings \$
Age Pension [2]	20,523	433	5,812	670,324
Austudy Payment	27	1	1	451
Carer Payment	147	3	48	4,407
Carer Allowance	2	0	0	0
Disability Support Pension [3]	596	7	164	17,009
Family Allowance	13	0	2	277
Family Tax Benefit	21	0	0	0
Newstart Allowance [4]	284	9	41	8,631
Parenting Payment Partnered	150	12	17	7,763
Parenting Payment Single	73	2	12	3,065
Partner Allowance	322	16	40	7,829
Sickness Allowance	5	0	1	329
Special Benefit	1	0	0	0
Widow Allowance	21	7	4	2,684
Youth Allowance	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	22,186	490	6,632	722,769

NOTE:

1. Reductions in payment include cancellations.
2. Age Pension includes Wife Pension (Age).
3. Disability Support Pension includes Wife Pension (DSP).
4. Newstart Allowance includes Mature Age Allowance.

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Centrelink Review Activity for Real Estate – Financial Year 2005-06 (to 28 February 2006)

Program	Number of Reviews Completed	Number of Cancellations	Reductions in Payment (1)	Fortnightly Savings \$
Age Pension [2]	22,066	235	5218	476,518
Austudy Payment	6	1	2	672
Carer Payment	114	1	33	2,321
Carer Allowance	0	0	0	0
Disability Support Pension [3]	366	3	89	7,895
Family Allowance	2	0	1	115
Family Tax Benefit	10	0	0	0
Newstart Allowance	110	6	16	3,333
Parenting Payment Partnered	39	4	13	3,544
Parenting Payment Single	21	2	11	2,504
Partner Allowance	403	27	63	10,408
Sickness Allowance	2	0	1	465
Special Benefit	0	0	0	0
Widow Allowance	3	0	1	104
Youth Allowance	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	23,142	279	5,448	507,879

NOTE:

1. Reductions in payment include cancellations.
2. Age Pension includes Wife Pension (Age) and Widow B Pension.
3. Disability Support Pension includes Wife Pension (DSP).
4. Newstart Allowance includes Mature Age Allowance.

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7. The following table provides details on appeals against real estate review outcomes.

Year	Outcome	ARO	SSAT	AAT	
				Secretary	Customer
2001-02					
Received		140	42	2	11
	Affirmed	107	30	1	5
	Varied	9	6	0	1
	Set Aside	22	13	0	1
	Withdrawn	4	4	1	3
	Dismissed/No Jurisdiction	0	1	0	3
2002-03					
Received		170	59	0	12
	Affirmed	128	39	0	2
	Varied	18	0	0	2
	Set Aside	21	13	0	3
	Withdrawn	7	0	0	3
	Dismissed/No Jurisdiction	1	0	0	0
2003-04					
Received		171	55	0	11
	Affirmed	143	32	0	7
	Varied	15	3	0	0
	Set Aside	15	14	0	0
	Withdrawn	3	3	0	0
	Dismissed/No Jurisdiction	0	0	0	2
2004-05					
Received		298	86	0	11
	Affirmed	218	47	0	8
	Varied	16	1	0	0
	Set Aside	21	24	0	0
	Withdrawn	13	7	0	0
	Dismissed/No Jurisdiction	0	0	0	5
2005-06					
Received		316	73	0	13
	Affirmed	227	33	0	4
	Varied	56	16	0	0
	Set Aside	22	0	0	2
	Withdrawn	11	0	0	0
	Dismissed/No Jurisdiction	0	2	0	4

NOTE:

The discrepancy between the number of appeals 'Received' and 'Finalised' is due to the delay in the appeal being heard and finalised. An appeal received in one financial year may not be finalised until the next financial year (in some cases appeals at the AAT may take longer).

This answer required 8 hours at a cost of \$331.00 to prepare.