

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Additional Estimates 2006-2007, 13th and 16th February, 2007

Question: HS77

Agency: Centrelink

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Centrepay

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SENATOR MOORE asked on 16/03/07:

How many people are currently, since 1 July 2006 and throughout 2006, using Centrepay to pay for essential bills and what social security assistance were they receiving?

Answer:

1. The number of people using Centrepay during the period 1 July 2006 to 31 December 2006 to pay for essential bills is listed in table 1.

TABLE 1	Number of Customers Using Centrepay					
	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06
Actual customers	257,674	261,125	264,352	266,986	268,546	269,381

2. Data is not available by specific pensions or allowances for each benefit type. The data provided is for the major benefit/payment group that customers receive.

TABLE 2	Fortnightly Centrepay Deductions by Major Benefit Group					
Major Payment Type	Jul-06	Aug-06	Sep-06	Oct-06	Nov-06	Dec-06
Abstudy	1,419	1,463	1,420	1,334	1,212	1,047
Family Tax Benefit	75,484	77,426	79,122	80,685	81,548	80,475
Newstart Allowance	55,556	56,264	57,127	57,552	57,687	57,424
Pensions*	221,044	224,511	228,020	231,391	233,704	235,649
Parenting Payment	13,104	13,314	13,436	13,490	13,377	13,127

* Includes: Age Pension, Disability Support Pension and Carer Payment.

Note: Customers may be receiving more than one benefit payment and may have more than one deduction.

To prepare this answer it has taken approximately 4 hours and five minutes at an estimated cost of \$216 to prepare.