

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Human Services and agencies

Budget Estimates 2005-2006, 26 May 2005

Question: HS99

Outcome 1, Output Group 1.1

Topic: Centrelink – Crisis Payment

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written

SENATOR EVANS asked on 26 May 2005:

(1) How many people have received the Crisis Payment in each of the last five financial years (including 2004-05 to date).

(2) For each of these five years, please break up this information by gender, age, state/territory and federal electorate.

(3) For each of these five years, please also provide:

(a) A breakdown of how many recipients were from Non-English Speaking backgrounds.

(b) A breakdown of how many recipients have received the payment because they have been removed from the home as result of their violence to their partner and/or children.

(c) A breakdown of what social security payments they were receiving when they were approved to receive a crisis payment.

(d) A breakdown of how many women have received the payment because they have been victims of domestic violence and have had to leave their home.

(4) In relation to the response to question on notice HS 46 from February Estimates:

(a) What was the purpose of the review of crisis payment?

(b) What were its main findings?

(c) What has been the Government's response?

(d) What action will be taken in response to the findings in the report?

Answer:

(1) Centrelink is unable to provide Crisis Payment data for the 2000-01 financial year without expenditure of significant resources. The data for this period was recorded and stored in a different manner to subsequent years.

Total Crisis Payments made in the remaining four financial years are as follows:

2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 to 10 June
43,971	45,282	44,847	44,420

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(2) Please see the four tables in Attachment A – ‘Crisis Payment By State, Age, and Gender’. Centrelink is unable to provide a break up of Crisis Payments by federal electorate.

(3)(a) For the last four financial years, Centrelink has extracted information on customers whose country of birth is other than one of the Mainly English Speaking Countries of Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom and United States of America:

2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 to 10 June
3535	3373	3246	3221

(3)(b). The Department of Family and Community Services introduced new policy on 21 February 2005 to allow payment of Crisis Payment to alleged and actual perpetrators of domestic violence who have been removed from the family home and have established a new home. Centrelink has granted Crisis Payment to approximately 45 customers in this situation since this new policy was implemented.

(3)(c) Details of the payments customers were in receipt of when Crisis Payment was granted can be found in the tables in Attachment B – ‘Crisis Payments by Payment Type.’

(3)(d) The number of women who were paid Crisis Payment in the preceding four years because they were forced to leave their home as a result of Domestic Violence is as follows:

2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 to 10 June
13379	14282	13751	13285

(4) The response to HS46 from the February 2005 Additional Estimates and this answer are provided by Centrelink and relate to programs that are the responsibility of the Department of Family and Community Services.

a) As part of Centrelink’s ongoing efforts to continuously improve its administration and delivery of Australian Government payments and services, Centrelink conducted an internal review of its administration of Crisis Payment.

b) The review covered a broad range of issues and highlighted areas where Crisis Payment policy and legislation could be changed to reach a wider target group.

c) The Government has noted the findings of the review.

d) Some of the issues raised in the review have already been addressed and others are currently being progressed.

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CRISIS PAYMENT CLAIMS GRANTED BY STATE/AGE AND GENDER FINANCIAL YEAR 2004-05

		FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL			FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
ACT	UNDER 18 YEARS	11	22	33	NSW	UNDER 18 YEARS	104	296	400
	18 - 20 YEARS	30	33	63		18 - 20 YEARS	316	719	1035
	21 - 24 YEARS	71	46	117		21 - 24 YEARS	666	1503	2169
	25 - 29 YEARS	61	60	121		25 - 29 YEARS	896	1842	2738
	30 - 39 YEARS	81	97	178		30 - 39 YEARS	1535	3098	4633
	40 - 49 YEARS	32	35	67		40 - 49 YEARS	625	1177	1802
	50 - 59 YEARS	8	5	13		50 - 59 YEARS	147	282	429
	60 - 64 YEARS	1	2	3		60 - 64 YEARS	19	47	66
	65 AND OVER	1	0	1		65 AND OVER	27	36	63
	TOTAL	296	300	596		TOTAL	4335	9000	13335
	NT	UNDER 18 YEARS	16	22		38	QLD	UNDER 18 YEARS	102
18 - 20 YEARS		44	94	138	18 - 20 YEARS	307		524	831
	21 - 24 YEARS	67	216	283		21 - 24 YEARS	607	894	1501
	25 - 29 YEARS	77	264	341		25 - 29 YEARS	733	1032	1765
	30 - 39 YEARS	126	445	571		30 - 39 YEARS	1352	1679	3031
	40 - 49 YEARS	55	185	240		40 - 49 YEARS	609	728	1337
	50 - 59 YEARS	11	30	41		50 - 59 YEARS	129	239	368
	60 - 64 YEARS	0	3	3		60 - 64 YEARS	13	38	51
	65 AND OVER	0	1	1		65 AND OVER	13	37	50
	TOTAL	396	1260	1656		TOTAL	3865	5362	9227
	SA	UNDER 18 YEARS	65	109		174	TAS	UNDER 18 YEARS	23
18 - 20 YEARS		200	180	380	18 - 20 YEARS	86		113	199
	21 - 24 YEARS	309	298	607		21 - 24 YEARS	141	182	323
	25 - 29 YEARS	402	384	786		25 - 29 YEARS	150	191	341
	30 - 39 YEARS	705	772	1477		30 - 39 YEARS	248	265	513
	40 - 49 YEARS	309	305	614		40 - 49 YEARS	98	127	225
	50 - 59 YEARS	66	84	150		50 - 59 YEARS	24	38	62
	60 - 64 YEARS	13	17	30		60 - 64 YEARS	10	10	20
	65 AND OVER	6	12	18		65 AND OVER	6	2	8
	TOTAL	2075	2161	4236		TOTAL	786	976	1762
	VIC	UNDER 18 YEARS	71	85		156	WA	UNDER 18 YEARS	98
18 - 20 YEARS		177	269	446	18 - 20 YEARS	193		310	503
	21 - 24 YEARS	394	658	1052		21 - 24 YEARS	473	647	1120
	25 - 29 YEARS	588	884	1472		25 - 29 YEARS	652	806	1458
	30 - 39 YEARS	1080	1271	2351		30 - 39 YEARS	1083	1310	2393
	40 - 49 YEARS	459	483	942		40 - 49 YEARS	349	501	850
	50 - 59 YEARS	101	152	253		50 - 59 YEARS	81	126	207
	60 - 64 YEARS	18	32	50		60 - 64 YEARS	18	18	36
	65 AND OVER	22	25	47		65 AND OVER	7	12	19
	TOTAL	2910	3859	6769		TOTAL	2954	3885	6839

**CRISIS PAYMENT CLAIMS GRANTED BY ALL PAYMENT TYPES
FINANCIAL YEAR 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05**

CRISIS PAYMENT CLAIMS GRANTED BY ALL PAYMENT TYPES - FINANCIAL YEAR 2004-05

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
REASONS				
Age Pension	161	196	209	229
Austudy	39	43	32	20
Carers Allowance	141	171	182	207
Disability Pension	4612	5423	6062	6543
Newstart Mature Aged	13	13	6	5
Newstart Allowance	24263	24413	24306	24153
Parenting Payment Partnered	348	438	365	343
Parenting Payment Single	9255	9588	9081	8681
Partner Allowance	19	18	13	7
Sickness Allowance	42	43	32	35
Special Benefit	136	109	97	37
Sole Parent Pension			1	1
Widows Allowance	82	107	86	80
Wifes Pension Aged	5	3	12	0
Wifes Pension Disability	16	18	13	14
Widow Pension	3	3	0	0
Youth Allowance	4836	4696	4350	4065