

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Centrelink

Budget Estimates 2007-08 - May 2007

Question: HS62

Outcome1, Output 1.1

Topic: Centrelink – Data on Parenting Payment, Disability Support Pension, Newstart and Youth Allowance

Written Question on Notice: 24/05/07

SENATOR SIEWERT asked on 24/05/2007:

1. For a Question on Notice from Additional Estimate, HS40, Centrelink replied that the information required to answer Parts 1-8 of the question is not readily available, can Centrelink explain why the Centrelink data collection process is not able to readily breakdown each of the following characteristics and if it can provide some of the data, what data it is able to provide, for:
 - a. the numbers of Parenting Payment recipients by age of youngest child, family status (PPS or PPP) and employment status (employment or not employed), by State?
 - b. the numbers of Disability Support Pension by employment status, payment status ('transitional group' and other), State?
 - c. the numbers of Newstart and Youth Allowance recipients by employment status, principal carer status, partial capacity to work status, those exempted from activity requirements, (including specifically: temporary exemptions for parents), by duration on those payment (less than 1 year, 1 year and less than 2, 2 years and less than 5, 5 years or more), State?
2. Can Centrelink explain why its data collection process cannot readily provide data on how many people had lodged appeals to "first" and "second" participation failures and "8 week penalties" and that information by State/Territory?
3. Can Centrelink explain why its data collection process cannot readily provide data on the outcomes of appeals to participation failures and "8 week penalties" and that data by State/Territory and in how many of these cases were customers paid pending appeal?
4. Can Centrelink explain why its data collection process cannot readily provide data on the average time for the National Participation Solutions Team to decide on a participation failure and issue correspondence to the customer?

Answer:

Centrelink is able to provide a response to parts 1a, 1b and 1c of the question following resource allocation extending beyond the timeframe available to complete HS40.

Centrelink is unable to readily provide a response to parts 2 and 3 as there are no special reasons recorded in Centrelink systems that specifically identify appeals against first or second failures, or appeals against "eight-week penalties" as opposed to appeals against failures in general. All appeals against failures are recorded under the general category of "failure". Given the lack of a direct data link, obtaining this information would be highly resource intensive (in excess of 50 hours to extract).

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Centrelink is unable to readily provide a response to part 4 as information on when correspondence relating to failure is issued to a customer by the National Participations Solutions Team is not recorded in a way that allows it to be linked to the participation failure that prompted it. Consequently, obtaining this information would be highly resource intensive (in excess of 50 hours to extract).

1a.

Parenting Payment Recipients as at 30 March 2007 by State by Age of Youngest Child by Earnings Indicator

Youngest Child <=7				
	PPP		PPS	
	With no Employment	With some level of Employment	With no Employment	With some level of Employment
NSW	35,871	3,608	60,978	20,195
VIC	24,765	2,965	38,853	14,612
QLD	18,974	2,804	37,641	17,051
WA	8,302	1,111	16,661	7,064
SA	7,557	1,113	13,760	5,425
TAS	3,304	583	5,058	2,094
ACT	647	129	1706	867
NT	2,651	111	3,110	680

Parenting Payment Recipients as at 30 March 2007 by Age of Child between Seven and Fifteen by Earnings Indicator

Youngest Child aged >7 and <=15				
	PPP		PPS	
	With no Employment	With some level of Employment	With no Employment	With some level of Employment
NSW	10,287	2,427	27,976	22,779
VIC	7,603	1,995	19,383	19,205
QLD	4,208	1,561	15,242	17,612
WA	1,849	664	6,862	8,427
SA	2,127	779	6,532	6,616
TAS	814	367	2,083	2,531
ACT	152	69	750	860
NT	450	43	1,114	484

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1b.

Disability Support Pension Population as at 2 March 2007

STATE	DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION					
	With no Employment			With some level of Employment		
	GRANDFATHERED	TRANSITIONAL	NEW	GRANDFATHERED	TRANSITIONAL	NEW
NSW	179,779	18,649	9,200	20,002	1,390	382
VIC	132,780	14,088	7,459	16,262	1,217	425
QLD	105,661	10,905	5,513	13,106	1,015	311
WA	44,099	4,641	2,391	7,867	523	164
SA	52,521	5,593	2,176	7,300	535	151
TAS	19,583	1,726	922	2,478	171	54
ACT	5,241	554	202	956	73	15
NT	4,724	685	357	373	43	16

1c.

Newstart Allowance Population as at 23 March 2007

STATE	TOTAL	With some level of Employment	Principle Carer	Partial Capacity to Work	Activity Test Exemption	Temporary Exemption)	*≤1yr on current payment	*>1 ≤2yr on current payment	*≥2 ≤5yr on current payment	>5yr on current payment
NSW	158,751	29,200	4,216	10496	14,852	112	85,245	28,026	28,410	17,070
VIC	116,234	25,738	2,721	6851	11,897	69	63,342	20,466	20,400	12,026
QLD	86,781	19,168	2,827	4712	9,296	102	50,562	14,219	13,921	8,079
WA	32,998	6,349	1,005	2186	3,517	28	18,821	5,577	5,559	3,031
SA	40,942	9,442	1,045	2330	4,283	30	21,542	7,102	7,452	4,846
TAS	16,528	4,656	518	751	1,721	22	7,741	2,858	3,211	2,718
ACT	3,837	795	N/A	259	556	<20	1,998	690	718	431
NT	14,338	656	147	282	1,953	<20	5,312	2,376	3,290	3,360

*In determining the parameters for this SAS run to collate the data to respond to this question the parameters were defined to be ≤ 1year; >1year to ≤2 years; >2 years to ≤5 years rather than <1 year; 1 year to <2 years; 2 years to 5 years and > 5 years. This means that:

- a customer who has been in receipt of Newstart/Youth Allowance for exactly one year on 23 March 2007 will be counted in the ≤ 1year category;
- a customer who has been in receipt of Newstart/Youth Allowance for exactly two years on 23 March 2007 will be counted in the >1 to ≤ 2 years category; and
- a customer who has been in receipt of Newstart/Youth Allowance for exactly five years on 23 March 2007 will be counted in the > 2 years to ≤ 5 years category.

The only customers who are affected are those who have been in receipt of the payments for exactly one year, two years or five years on 23 March 2007.

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Youth Allowance Population as at 23 March 2007

STATE	TOTAL	With some level of Employment	Principle Carer	Partial Capacity to Work	Activity Test Exemption	Temporary Exemption)	*≤1yr on current payment	*>1 ≤2yr on current payment	*>2 ≤5yr on current payment	>5yr on current payment
NSW	24,298	3,880	<20	279	1,432	<20	13,078	4,926	5,665	29
VIC	14,619	2,844	<20	161	313	<20	6,993	2,854	4,754	<20
QLD	14,638	3,020	<20	209	1,004	<20	8,679	3,081	2,855	23
WA	5,053	718	<20	74	436	<20	3,250	995	808	<20
SA	6,511	1,253	<20	98	416	<20	3,211	1,384	1,910	<20
TAS	2,685	579	<20	22	182	<20	1,206	577	902	<20
ACT	570	119	<20	<20	61	<20	298	122	148	<20
NT	2,370	74	<20	<20	433	<20	1,268	573	529	<20

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- a customer who has been in receipt of Newstart/Youth Allowance for exactly one year on 23 March 2007 will be counted in the ≤ 1year category;
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