

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Human Services and Agencies

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2006-2007, 31 October, 2006

**Question: HS30**

**Outcome 1, Output 1**

**Topic: Centrelink – Carer Payment and Carer Allowance**

**Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written**

**SENATOR EVANS** asked on 31/10/06:

1. Please provide figures on the number of Carer Payment (child) claims, grants and rejections for each of the last two financial years.
2. How many parents have been granted Carer Payment (child) under the new criteria, which were announced during the lead up, to the Welfare to Work changes?
3. Could we have the number of debts raised in 2005-06, by payment type and the total amount for Carer Payment and Carer Allowance?

**Answer:**

1. Carer Payment (child) grants and rejections.

Financial Year			Claims
	Granted	Rejected	
2004-05	502	3791	4293
2005-06	591	4299	4890

Note: Claimants, if initially unsuccessful, may lodge subsequent claims.

2. Carer Payment was extended on 1 July 2006 to carers of children aged between 6 and 16 years who have a severe intellectual, psychiatric or behavioural disability or medical condition.

As at 1 December 2006, 430 customers had been granted Carer Payment under these new-criteria.

3. Debts raised relating to Carer Allowance/Carer Payment by payment type for 2005-06.

Carer Benefit Type	Number of Debts	Total \$m
Carer Allowance	10,660	\$2.7m
Carer Payment	25,073	\$17.1m

To prepare this answer it has taken approximately 17 hours and 6 minutes at an estimated cost of \$876.