

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 October 2009 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Economic Stimulus Payments

Question reference number: HS37

Senator: Scullion

Type of question: Written

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Question:

How many and what was the dollar value of economic stimulus payments from all programs that were paid to overseas recipients?

Answer:

In previous responses, Centrelink and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs have advised that there were 68,812 overseas customers who received Economic Security Strategy payments totalling \$82.2 million. These figures were based on data available in March 2009 from one of Centrelink's manual processes. Since then Centrelink has also delivered the Household Stimulus Payments.

Enhancements to Centrelink's systems and the maturation of the automatic data matching process with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship means Centrelink can now provide more accurate information.

As at 31 December 2009, Economic Security Strategy payments were made to 60,797 customers who reside overseas totalling \$73.4 million. Similarly, 1,515 customers who reside overseas received Household Stimulus Payments totalling \$1.9 million.

There has also been 23,975 customers who were temporarily overseas for six months or more and received Economic Security Strategy payments totalling \$33.7 million and 12,861 similar customers who received \$16.6 million in Household Stimulus Payments.

All overseas customers have been correctly paid their entitlement in keeping with eligibility criteria determined by legislation and policy.