

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Program 1.6

Question No. 79

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 22 February 2011:

1. How many people have claimed the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment?
 - a. Can I have a break down by state?
 - b. Can I have a further break down by month? And if possible by day?
2. How much money has been distributed through the Natural Disaster Recovery Arrangements?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

1. As at 22 February 2011, 322,614 AGDRP claims have been received. The breakdown of AGDRP payments by state and month is as follows ¹:

¹ **AGDRP:** Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment - A payment of \$1000 per adult and \$400 in respect of each child for which the eligible adult is the principle carer.

Meaning of <20: All cells that have a value of less than 20 have been changed to display "<20". This rule has been employed for privacy reasons. Where the total fields are included these will only have a value when it does not make it possible to work out the value of any "<20" fields. This will prevent information from being broken down or manipulated to the degree that individuals may be identified, and to cover the legal requirement to protect and individual's privacy.

Not Defined:

Event - refers to a claim that has been received but the event has not been defined in the data set.

State - refers to a claim that has been received but the State at the Customer's Principle Place of Residence has not been defined in the data set.

Number of Claims Registered: The number of adult claims registered in Centrelink ERP System.

Activity Registered Date: Is the date that the claim has been matched and registered to a Customer record in the Centrelink system.

Activity Registered Date	State	Number of Claims Registered by AGDRP Event							Total
		Qld Floods	NSW Floods	VIC Floods	TC Yasi	WA Floods	WA Bushfires	Not Defined	
Jan-11	ACT	72	0	<20	0	0	0	<20	73
	NSW	3,133	2,570	27	0	0	0	0	5,730
	NT	155	<20	<20	0	0	0	0	157
	QLD	315,437	726	81	0	0	0	37	316,281
	SA	182	<20	<20	0	0	0	0	197
	TAS	93	0	0	0	0	0	0	93
	VIC	795	<20	11,334	0	0	0	<20	12,138
	WA	155	0	<20	0	0	0	0	158
	Not Defined	548	<20	<20	0	0	0	<20	576
	Jan Total		320,570	3,316	11,475	0	0	0	43
Feb-11	ACT	28	<20	<20	44	0	0	0	76
	NSW	1,085	5,305	36	644	<20	<20	0	7,071
	NT	70	<20	0	174	<20	0	0	248
	QLD	68,630	155	62	229,803	<20	<20	0	298,656
	SA	81	<20	<20	142	0	<20	0	240
	TAS	39	<20	<20	60	0	0	0	104
	VIC	332	92	11,781	450	<20	<20	0	12,658
	WA	88	<20	<20	154	673	2,011	0	2,934
Not Defined	168	<20	<20	426	0	<20	0	627	
Feb Total		70,521	5,576	11,917	231,897	679	2,024	0	322,614

Centrelink has advised AGD that it is not in a position to provide a breakdown of the AGDRP by month and day given the complexity of the request.

- The NDRRA is designed to alleviate the potentially significant financial burden on states by providing scalable financial reimbursement for costs associated with certain relief and recovery activities following disasters. The NDRRA acts as a safety-net in that a greater level of assistance is provided to those states that suffer large scale costly natural disasters.

The NDRRA generally works on a reimbursement basis with payments to states subject to the submission of claims. However where exceptional circumstances exist, the Commonwealth may provide advance payments under the program.

In response to the Queensland floods, an initial advance payment of \$1 billion was made to the Queensland Government under the NDRRA. The Commonwealth has further committed to an additional \$1 billion advance for the Queensland floods and \$50 million for Tropical Cyclone Yasi.