

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

**Group 3**

**Program 1.7**

**Question No. 44**

**Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 12 February 2013:**

**Senator HUMPHRIES:** How many DIRS payments have been sought and made?

**Mr Sheehan:** As at midnight 10 February there had been \$74,000 in DIRS payments made.

**Senator HUMPHRIES:** \$74,000. How many recipients is that?

**Mr Sheehan:** I do not have that detail, Senator, but we could get you something very quickly in consultation with the Department of Human Services, who make the payment on our behalf.

**Senator HUMPHRIES:** We are talking about a payment equivalent to Newstart—

**Mr Sheehan:** That is right.

**Senator HUMPHRIES:** for up to 13 weeks.

**Mr Sheehan:** Yes.

**Senator HUMPHRIES:** That is probably fewer than 100 people, isn't it?

**Mr Sheehan:** I am not sure of the exact number, but I would assume that the payments are made on a regular basis. We will get the information from DHS.

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

As at midnight 3 March 2013, a total of 2,661 claims have been received for the Disaster Income Recovery Subsidy (DIRS) for the Queensland Floods in January 2013. Of these claims, 1,381 have been finalised and the total amount of currently scheduled payments to be made is \$628,386.90.