

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

Group 3

Program 1.7

Question No. 45

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

Senator FURNER: To follow up on that line of questioning, or those statements, I should probably say: this flooding occurred only a few weeks ago, so there is possibly a bit of a backlog. I understand that the eligibility is up to 22 April for DIRS—is that correct?

Mr Sheehan: That is correct. It is a 13 week payment. It has actually been in operation now for nine days, and the figures that I have are up to the end of day 7.

...

Senator FURNER:

In delivering those figures of DIRS for that amount of money, could you also indicate the areas that have already applied for that? I would also like to follow up with some understanding of the AGDR payments, as to how many recipients have accessed them and, once again, the areas, and if you do not have that at hand then could you take that on notice as well.

...

Mr Sheehan: Thank you, Senator. In answer to your first question: the areas in which DIRS has been activated are Bundaberg, Gympie, Fraser Coast, North Burnett and Lockyer Valley. I do not think we have a breakdown by area as to how much of the payment is in each area, although I think we could get that from DHS and that could be provided. For AGDRP, I listed the nine areas in Queensland before for the record; in addition to those: Clarence Valley, Coonamble, Gilgandra and Warrumbungle, in New South Wales, for fire. And in Tasmania, Glamorgan, Spring Bay, Sorrell, Tasman and Ellendale District—and I mentioned before to Senator Humphries, that is an example of doing a district rather than doing the entire LGA.

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 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.

As at midnight, 3 March 2013 there have been total of 171,671 claims for the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP) received and finalised across the three states where the payment has been made available. The total amount of currently scheduled payments to be made is \$144,016,700.

Of these claims, there have been 134,477 claims in Queensland and 12,733 claims in New South Wales relating to the flooding associated with ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald, 805 claims in New South Wales relating to the Wambelong bushfire, and 7,159 claims in Tasmania relating to the bushfires.

The Department of Human Services has advised that it does not record the data on the areas in which these claims have been made in a way that would make the requested information readily available. To provide the area level data to the detail requested in the question would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources.