Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Ending Carbon Tax Compensation) Bill 2017

26 July 2017

Outcome Number: Cross outcomes   **Question No: 5**

Topic: Energy Supplement

Hansard page: 19

Senator Watt asked:

Senator WATT: It may be that at a past hearing about this bill, or perhaps in a question on notice, you have already broken down that figure of 1.7 million by payment type and electorate. Do you know whether you've provided that information previously?
Ms Halbert: I believe we've tabled one that broke it down by payment type, not by electorate.
Senator WATT: Could you check for us, and if you haven't done so already, provide it to us, broken down by payment. I recognise we have a fairly short turnaround time for questions on notice.
Ms Halbert: We have that and can provide that to you.

Answer:

The numbers, by payment type, were tabled by departmental officers on Thursday 9 March 2017 during the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee hearing into the *Social Services Legislation Amendment (Omnibus Savings and Child Care Reform) Bill 2017*.

Please list all other Branches/Offices/Departments Consulted:
1.   Budget Development Branch; and
2.   Social Security Analytics Branch.

	Departmental Officer:	**Cleared by:**	
Name:	Matthew Hardy	Cath Halbert	
Position:	Branch Manager	Group Manager	
Branch/Group:	Families and Pensions Branch	Payments Policy Group	
Work phone number:	s 47F	s 47F	
Mobile phone number:	s 47F	s 47F	
Cleared by Group Manager	Yes ☐ No ☐	Date:	**GM Initial**	
Cleared by Deputy Secretary	Yes ☐ No ☐	Date:	**DS Initial**	

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Ending Carbon Tax Compensation) Bill 2017

26 July 2017

Number of customers estimated to lose the Energy Supplement, linked to a social security income support payment, by 30 June 2020, by s 22 state

CUSTOMER NUMBERS BY STATE) AFFECTED BY CLOSURE OF ENERGY SUPPLEMENT TO NEW WELFARE RECIPIENTS UNDER SCHEDULE 9 OF THE SSLA (OMNIBUS SAVINGS AND CHILD CARE REFORM) BILL 2017 (as at 7 March 2017)															
STATE				s 22											TOTAL
NSW															538,034
VIC															424,878
QLD															352,950
SA															130,106
WA															160,552
TAS															52,296
NT															28,549
ACT															24,751
Total															**1,712,116**

Source: DSS estimates as at 7 March 2017.

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Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Ending Carbon Tax Compensation) Bill 2017

26 July 2017

Outcome Number: Cross outcomes   **Question No: 6**

Topic: Energy Supplement

Hansard page: 20

Senator Watt asked:

Senator WATT: …You would have data as to the proportion of people who receive certain types of payments within electorates.
Ms Halbert: Based on current recipients, yes, we could do that.
Senator WATT: You wouldn't mind taking on notice a breakdown by electorate based on current figures as to percentages of people receiving certain payments? I recognise that those figures can only be estimates.

Answer:

Because the actual individuals who will lose the Energy Supplement linked to an income support payment cannot be identified in advance, the electorates in which they live also cannot be so identified.

Please list all other Branches/Offices/Departments consulted:
1.   Budget Development Branch; and
2.   Social Security Analytics Branch.

	Departmental Officer:	**Cleared by:**
Name:	Matthew Hardy	Cath Halbert
Position:	Branch Manager	Group Manager
Branch/Group:	Families and Pensions Branch	Payments Policy Group
Work phone number:	s 47F	s 47F
Mobile phone number:	s 47F	s 47F
Cleared by Group Manager	**Yes** ☐ **No** ☐	**Date:**	**GM Initial**
Cleared by Deputy Secretary	**Yes** ☐ **No** ☐	**Date:**	**DS Initial**

Outcome Number: 1.6 Income Support for Seniors   **Question No: SQ17-000350**

Topic: Pension Eligibility

Hansard page: 123

Senator Murray Watt asked:

How many people currently in the workforce will be affected by increasing the pension age to 70?
Has the department done any modelling on the number of Australian who will be affected by this change?
How did the department arrive at that figure and the steps along the way?

Answer:

In relation to the increases in the Age Pension qualification age from 65 to 67 and then from 67 to 70, Australian resident population data prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is used to produce projected recipient numbers onto the social security and welfare payments administered by the Department of Social Services. ABS projected population data based on age, sex, fertility, mortality and migration are used to determine projected take-up onto payments. Modelling did not include workforce status.

Subject to the passage of legislation, the Age Pension qualifying age will increase by six months every two years from 1 July 2025, reaching 70 years by 1 July 2035. If passed, this further change to the Age Pension qualifying age from 67 to 70 years would affect people born on or after 1 July 1958.

Table: Estimated recipients impacted

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Recipients	51,300	67,942	120,340	134,958

Note: Some people will access other income support payments.

Please list all other Branches/Offices/Departments Consulted:
1.   Social Policy Modelling, Investment Approach Taskforce

	Departmental Officer:	**Cleared by:**
Name:	Russell de Burgh	Cath Halbert
Position:	Branch Manager	Group Manager
Branch/Group:	Pensions & Integrity	Payments Policy
Work phone number:	s 47F	s 47F
Mobile phone number:	s 47F	s 47F
Cleared by Group Manager	Yes ☒ No ☐	Date:	**GM Initial**	CH
Cleared by Deputy Secretary	Yes ☒ No ☐	Date:	**DS Initial**	SW

Officer who will address this question at the next Estimates	**Cath Halbert**