Parenting Payment Single (PPS) – Payment Trends and Profile Report  
June 2015

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## About Parenting Payment Single

Parenting Payment Single is an income support payment for single principal carer parents with a child under eight years of age.

## Parenting Payment Single Quick Facts

PPS recipients with a youngest child aged 6 years and over have mutual obligation requirements. The number of these recipients has increased 3.4% comparing June 2014 to June 2015. The number of recipients with a partial capacity to work increased by 6.3% from June 2014, and by 33.3% from June 2013.

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| **Table 1: Parenting Payment Single Quick Facts** | | | | | |
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| **Quick Facts** | **Jun-13** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** | **Change Jun-14 to Jun-15** | **Change Jun-13 to Jun-15** |
|
| Total Population | 255,411 | 260,632 | 262,108 | 0.6% | 2.6% |
|
| Male | 12,450 | 13,074 | 13,596 | 4.0% | 9.2% |
| Female | 242,961 | 247,558 | 248,512 | 0.4% | 2.3% |
| Duration - Short term | 35,354 | 35,016 | 33,226 | -5.1% | -6.0% |
| Duration - Long Term | 220,057 | 225,616 | 228,882 | 1.4% | 4.0% |
| Recipients with Earnings | 64,660 | 64,849 | 65,419 | 0.9% | 1.2% |
| Recipients with Mutual Obligation requirements | 47,276 | 49,935 | 51,647 | 3.4% | 9.2% |
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| Mutual Obligation with a Partial Capacity to Work | 2309 | 2897 | 3079 | 6.3% | 33.3% |
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## Parenting Payment Single Population – Time Series

The PPS population has been steadily declining for most of the last 10 years. In January 2013, there was a large, one-off decrease with the cessation of grandfathering provisions for recipients who had been on payment prior to 1 July 2006 and had a child aged over 7 years; eligible recipients transferred onto Newstart Allowance. From June 2014 to June 2015, the total PPS population increased by 0.6%.

| **Table 2: Parenting Payment Single Time Series** | |
| --- | --- |
| **Month and Year** | **Recipients** |
| Jun-05 | 448,588 |
| Jun-06 | 432,958 |
| Jun-07 | 395,495 |
| Jun-08 | 360,633 |
| Jun-09 | 344,096 |
| Jun-10 | 333,512 |
| Jun-11 | 326,248 |
| Jun-12 | 319,582 |
| Jun-13 | 255,411 |
| Jun-14 | 260,632 |
| Jun-15 | 262,108 |

## Parenting Payment Single Expenditure

Expenditure for PPS has generally trended downwards over time, however, there was a slight increase in expenditure in 2014-15. The 2014-15 expenditure on PPS was $4.579 billion. Expenditure on PPS makes up 0.3% of Gross Domestic Product (ABS National Accounts).

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| **Table 3: Parenting Payment Single Expenditure** | | |
| **Financial Year** | **Expenditure ($’000)** | **% of Gross Domestic Product** |
| 2010-11 | 4,531,454 | 0.32% |
| 2011-12 | 4,793,423 | 0.32% |
| 2012-13 | 4,504,234 | 0.30% |
| 2013-14 | 4,363,979 | 0.28% |
| 2014-15 | 4,579,566 | 0.28% |

## Parenting Payment Single by Age Group

At June 2015, 43% of PPS recipients were aged under 30 years, with a further 40% aged between 30 and 39 years. 17% of recipients are aged over 40 years, with the majority of these recipients aged between 40 and 44 years.

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| **Table 4: Parenting Payment Single by Age Group** | | | | | |
| **Age Group** | **Jun-11** | **Jun-12** | **Jun-13** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** |
| Under 30 | 114,417 | 113,918 | 112,248 | 114,302 | 113,983 |
| 30-39 | 124,917 | 121,749 | 101,382 | 103,253 | 104,595 |
| 40+ | 86,914 | 83,915 | 41,781 | 43,077 | 43,530 |

## Parenting Payment Single by Gender

PPS recipients are predominantly female, with 94.8% female and 5.2% male. This gender split has remained stable following the cessation of the grandfathering provisions in January 2013, which resulted in a significant one-off decrease in the overall number of recipients.

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| **Table 5: Parenting Payment Single by Gender** | | | | | |
| **Gender** | **Jun-11** | **Jun-12** | **Jun-13** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** |
| Male | 15,749 | 15,214 | 12,450 | 13,074 | 13,596 |
| Female | 310,499 | 304,368 | 242,961 | 247,558 | 248,512 |

## Parenting Payment Single by Age of Youngest Child

PPS recipient numbers are highest among recipients with a youngest child aged 1 year old. Recipient numbers then gradually decline from when the youngest child is 1 year old until recipients lose eligibility for PPS when their youngest child reaches 8 years old.

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| **Table 6: Parenting Payment Single by Age of Youngest Child** | |
| **Age of Youngest Child** | **Jun-15** |
| 0 years | 32,822 |
| 1 year | 40,323 |
| 2 years | 38,214 |
| 3 years | 35,392 |
| 4 years | 32,668 |
| 5 years | 30,733 |
| 6 years | 27,100 |
| 7 years | 24,845 |

Note: the table above does not include youngest children with an unknown age

## Parenting Payment Single by Indigenous Indicator

The Indigenous proportion of the total PPS population has gradually increased since June 2011. In June 2015 the Indigenous proportion was 13.1%. Indigenous recipients include only those who have voluntarily identified as Indigenous.

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| **Table 7: Parenting Payment Single by Indigenous Indicator** | | | | | |
| **Indigenous Indicator** | **Jun-11** | **Jun-12** | **Jun-13** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** |
| Non Indigenous | 293,044 | 285,320 | 223,996 | 227,798 | 227,707 |
| Indigenous | 33,204 | 34,262 | 31,415 | 32,834 | 34,401 |
| Percentage | 10.2% | 10.7% | 12.3% | 12.6% | 13.1% |

## Parenting Payment Single by Rate of Payment

The proportion of recipients on full-rate is comparable with June 2014 with a small decrease from 76% at June 2014 to 75.8% at June 2015. 'Other' includes those recipients who were yet to be paid.

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| **Table 8: Parenting Payment Single by Rate of Payment** | | | | | |
| **Rate of Payment** | **Jun-11** | **Jun-12** | **Jun-13** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** |
| Full Rate | 218,128 | 215,415 | 193,640 | 197,963 | 198,762 |
| Part Rate | 102,520 | 98,802 | 58,963 | 59,788 | 60,346 |
| Zero Rate | 5,178 | 4,999 | 2,431 | 2,405 | 2,590 |
| Other Rate | 422 | 366 | 377 | 476 | 410 |

## Parenting Payment Single by Earnings

The proportion of recipients reporting earnings has remained relatively stable over time. 25% of PPS recipients had earnings as at June 2015.

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| **Table 9: Parenting Payment Single by Earnings** | | | | | |
| **Reporting Earnings** | **Jun-11** | **Jun-12** | **Jun-13** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** |
| Nil Earnings | 214,128 | 212,596 | 190,751 | 195,783 | 196,689 |
| Had Earnings | 112,120 | 106,986 | 64,660 | 64,849 | 65,419 |

## Parenting Payment Single by Duration on Income Support

PPS has longer duration results than most income support payments, due to the nature of the payment, with recipients caring for young and often multiple children. As at June 2015, 87.3% of recipients were classified as long-term. The proportion has increased from 86.6% at June 2014.

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| **Table 10: Parenting Payment Single by Duration on Income Support** | | | | | |
| **Duration** | **Jun-11** | **Jun-12** | **Jun-13** | **Jun-14** | **Jun-15** |
| Less than 1 year | 35,133 | 34,357 | 35,354 | 35,016 | 33,226 |
| 1 year plus | 291,115 | 285,225 | 220,057 | 225,616 | 228,882 |

## Parenting Payment Single by Remoteness Area

The majority of PPS recipients reside in major cities (59.8%). A further 36.4% live in regional areas (outer and inner), while the remaining recipients are in remote or very remote locations. This does not reflect the general working age population, which has a higher proportion of the population living in major cities (71%) and a lower proportion living in regional areas (27%) (ABS Census 2011 data).

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| **Table 11: Parenting Payment Single by Remoteness Area** | | |
| **Remoteness Area** | **Jun-15** | **Percentage** |
| Inner Regional Australia | 63,272 | 24.1% |
| Major Cities of Australia | 156,833 | 59.8% |
| Outer Regional Australia | 32,165 | 12.3% |
| Remote Australia | 4,911 | 1.9% |
| Very Remote Australia | 4,117 | 1.6% |
| Not Assigned to a Remoteness Area | 810 | 0.3% |

## Parenting Payment Single by State

The highest proportion of recipients were located in New South Wales at 31% followed by 24.7% in Queensland and Victoria at 21.1%.

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| **Table 12: Parenting Payment Single by State** | |
| **State** | **Jun-15** |
| New South Wales | 81,192 |
| Queensland | 64,848 |
| Victoria | 55,192 |
| Western Australia | 27,170 |
| South Australia | 19,723 |
| Tasmania | 7,620 |
| Northern Territory | 3,579 |
| Australian Capital Territory | 2,765 |
| Unknown | 19 |

## Parenting Payment Single with Earnings by Age of Youngest Child

Recipients with a youngest child aged 6 years old or older make up 34.3% of PPS recipients with earnings.

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| **Table 13: Parenting Payment Single with Earnings by Age of Youngest Child** | | |
| **Age of Youngest Child** | **Recipients with earnings** | **Proportion of earners** |
| 0 years | 2,119 | 3.2% |
| 1 year | 5,843 | 8.9% |
| 2 years | 7,956 | 12.2% |
| 3 years | 8,684 | 13.3% |
| 4 years | 8,924 | 13.6% |
| 5 years | 9,427 | 14.4% |
| 6 years | 10,806 | 16.5% |
| 7 years | 11,659 | 17.8% |

## Circumstances before receiving Parenting Payment Single

The majority of PPS recipients in June 2015, and who were not in receipt of PPS in June 2014, did not transfer from another income support payment. Of those who had transferred to PPS, and who were receiving another income support in June 2014, the largest proportion transferred from Parenting Payment Partnered (15.4%), Newstart Allowance (14.1%) and Youth Allowance (other) (6.2%).

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| **Table 14: Circumstances before receiving Parenting Payment Single** | | |
| **Circumstance** | **Recipients** | **Percentage** |
| Not Receiving Income Support | 34,253 | 60% |
| Working Age Payment | 20,513 | 36% |
| Student Payment | 1,204 | 2% |
| Other Income Support Payment | 1,315 | 2% |

## Circumstances after receiving Parenting Payment Single

Of those who were in receipt of PPS in June 2014 and who were no longer receiving PPS in June 2015, 45.6% were no longer receiving any income support. Recipients who transferred to another payment generally transferred to Newstart Allowance (35.1%), Parenting Payment Partnered (10%) and Carer Payment (6.1%).

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| **Table 15: Circumstances after receiving Parenting Payment Single** | | |
| **Circumstance** | **Recipients** | **Percentage** |
| Not Receiving Income Support | 25,474 | 46% |
| Working Age Payment | 25,556 | 46% |
| Student Payment | 613 | 1% |
| Other Income Support Payment | 4,166 | 7% |

## Data Descriptions

**Parenting Payment Single:** An income support payment for single principal carer parents with a youngest child under eight years of age.

**Recipient Numbers:** Recipients of Parenting Payment Single who are determined to be current (i.e. entitled to be paid) on the Centrelink payment system.

**Report Details:** Payment trends and profiles report - June 2015 - Produced by the Department of Social Services.

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**Source:** Department of Human Services Administrative data (DSS Extracts)

**Data Date:** Data as at the 26th of June 2015.

**Australian National Accounts:** National Income, Expenditure and Product: Table 34 Time Series Spreadsheets (cat. no. 5206.0)

**Australian Bureau of Statistics Census 2011:** Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 Census of Population and Housing, Table Builder, RA by AGE5P - Age in Five Year Groups

## Glossary

**Age Group:** The age group of the recipient.

**Age of Youngest Child:** The age of the recipient’s youngest child.

**Circumstances after PPS:** This data compares two points in time, one year apart. 'Not Receiving Income Support' describes those who were in receipt of PPS at the first point in time, who were not receiving an income support payment at the second point in time. This data does not take into account Family Tax Benefit.

**Circumstances before PPS:** This data compares two points in time, one year apart. 'Not Receiving Income Support' describes those who were not in receipt of an income support payment at the first point in time, who were receiving PPS at the second point in time. This data does not take into account Family Tax Benefit.

**Duration:** Duration refers to duration on Income Support and may not reflect duration on current payment type.

**Earnings:** Earnings refers to employment earnings reported in the last fortnight of the reported period.

**Expenditure:** Expenditure amount, as reported in the Department's Annual Report. '% of GDP' is the expenditure on the payment as a percentage of Australia's Gross Domestic Product (ABS data - see data source above).

**Indigenous:** Indigenous recipients include only those who have voluntarily identified as Indigenous. This data may therefore represent an undercount.

**Mutual Obligation Requirements:** Recipients who need to undertake activities, such as job search or training, to remain eligible for payment. Recipients of Parenting Payment Single have Mutual Obligation requirements once their youngest child turns six years of age. Mutual Obligation Requirements means participation requirements under the Social Security Act 1991.

**Partial Capacity to Work:** Recipients with Mutual Obligation requirements who have been assessed in the last two years as having a capacity to work of under 30 hours per week, due to an ongoing physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment.

**Remoteness Area:** Remoteness Areas are based on the recipient's geo-coded address against the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011.

**Rate:** The rate of the recipients payment ('other' include those recipients who, as at the data date, were yet to be paid).

**State:** The State or Territory recorded in the recipient's address.

## Further Information

The Department of Social Services publishes statistics about the various pensions, benefits and family payments which the Department administers, on a quarterly basis on the Australian Government’s centralised data publishing site, [data.gov.au](http://www.data.gov.au/organization/about/department-of-social-services) (http://www.data.gov.au/organization/about/department-of-social-services). A statistical overview is published on an annual basis on the Department’s website, [DSS - Statistical Paper Series](http://www.dss.gov.au/about-the-department/publications-articles/research-publications/statistical-paper-series) (http://www.dss.gov.au/about-the-department/publications-articles/research-publications/statistical-paper-series).

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