



Government of Bermuda
Ministry of Community, Culture and Sports
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

Responses to Parliamentary Questions
by
The Hon. Patricia Gordon-Pamplin, JP MP
Minister of Community, Culture and Sports

May 29th 2015

To questions tabled by

Mr. Rolfe Commissiong, JP MP
On 21st May 2015

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1. **Will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House of the total number of clients on Financial Assistance as of the 1st May 2015?**

As of 1st May 2015, there were a total of **2,708** persons/heads of households receiving financial assistance via the Financial Assistance Programme. (This does *not* include persons on the Child Day Care Allowance Programme).

2. **Will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable house of the number of clients on Financial Assistance who are enrolled in HIP and FutureCare respectively?**

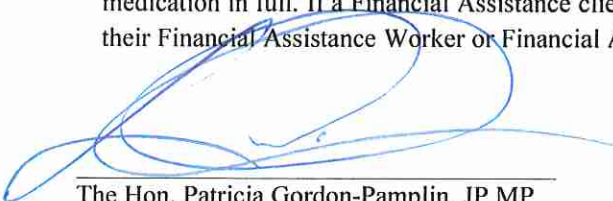
With regard to **HIP: 2,088 clients**

With regard to **FutureCare: 620 clients**

(Please note: That there are some clients who maintain their own insurance; in cases like this, the Department of Financial Assistance would pay the amount equivalent to the cost of HIP or FutureCare directly to clients for them to apply to their independent insurance carrier).

3. **Will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House whether she is aware that a number of Financial Assistance Clients, who are in need of health care services and medications are being forced to make a Hobson's choice: i.e., by deferring the purchase of necessary services and medications, as they cannot afford the co-pay mandated under HIP and FutureCare, due to economic hardship?**

Any Financial Assistance client who is in need of health care services or medication should *not* be in this position. The Department of Financial Assistance pays for the insurance premium to provide health care services and pays for all medication needed by clients on **HIP** - as medication is *not* covered via HIP insurance. Clients on **Future Care** are able to secure their medication immediately *without* the need to pay any co-pay, up to their limit of \$2,000 annually. Once clients have reached their maximum limit, the Department of Financial Assistance begins to pay for their medication in full. If a Financial Assistance client feels as if they have to make a Hobson's choice, they should contact their Financial Assistance Worker or Financial Assistance Manager, who will give them assistance and direction.



The Hon. Patricia Gordon-Pamplin, JP MP
Minister of Community, Culture and Sports

CC: Secretary to the Cabinet
Clerk to the Legislature