

Community Affairs References Committee
Planning Options and services for people ageing with a disability
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
8 November 2010

Outcome Number 5: Disability and Carers

Question No: 8

Topic: Extension of age pension eligibility to 67 years of age

Hansard Page: 8/11/10 - CA15/16

Senator Boyce asked:

Will this mean the disability support pension – or all pensions – will be extended similarly?
Will DSP recipients be required to elect whether to move onto age pension at age 67?

Answer:

DSP and Carer Payment recipients are currently asked to indicate whether they wish to transfer to Age Pension at age pension age. This process will not change as a result of the change to age pension age.

The *Social Security Act 1991* does not impose an upper age limit on DSP qualification.

A person who is already in receipt of DSP can remain on DSP after reaching age pension age, however, the *Social Security Administration Act 1999* provides that a person cannot submit a new claim for DSP after he or she has reached age pension age.

As the qualifying age for Age Pension increases, people will be able to claim DSP if they are not yet of age pension age.