

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2010-11 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** 5

**Question No:** 78

**Topic:** Ongoing residency requirement for Disability Support Pension

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

Does the Department believe that the changes to DSP residence rules will lead to additional expenditure as some of the 154 identified people may be required to move back to Australia and will subsequently require services and supports that they are currently accessing overseas?

**Answer:**

There are 154 Disability Support Pension (DSP) recipients spending less than 8 weeks in Australia each year. Research undertaken by the Department indicates that DSP recipients who spend considerable periods of time overseas each year still utilise the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and Medicare Services at the same rates as DSP recipients residing in Australia. Overall the measure is expected to save the Government an estimated \$10.4 million over the forward estimates.