

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 26 FEBRUARY 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Disability Support Pension – Participation Plans

Question reference number: HS 49

Senator: Cameron

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 April 2015

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) How many people under 35 have had a Participation Plan developed under the recent Budget changes?
- b) Provide an overview of these plans (e.g., not required to look for work, training, etc.)
- c) How many have had their payments suspended?
- d) How many have has their payments cancelled?
- e) How many people would be required to develop a Participation Plan if the age requirement were increased to:
 - 1) 40
 - 2) 45
 - 3) 50

Answer:

- a) From the date of implementation on 1 July 2014 to 20 February 2015, there were 22,915 recipients who agreed a Disability Support Pension (DSP) Participation Plan.
- b) DSP Compulsory Participation Plans include a compulsory employment focussed activity designed to increase the recipient's capacity to work. That might include active participation with a Job Services or Disability Employment Services provider, education or training that promotes work readiness or job search, or work experience or rehabilitation activities to overcome individual barriers. In addition, a compulsory activity to attend DSP participation interviews is included in all Participation Plans. The plans may also include voluntary activities identified by the recipient.
- c) From 1 July 2014 to 6 March 2015, there were 1,727 recipients who had their DSP suspended as a result of compliance action. Payments can be suspended for a range of reasons, such as not signing a Participation Plan, not attending an interview or not participating in a compulsory activity.

- d) From 1 July 2014 to 6 March 2015, there were 25 recipients who had their DSP cancelled as a result of compliance action. Cancellations can occur after three separate incidents of not undertaking compulsory activities.
- e) This question should be referred to the Department of Social Services as they have policy responsibility for this measure.