

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 11 FEBRUARY 2016 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Disability Support Pension - assessments

Question reference number: HS 24

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Hansard pages 135-136

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 April 2016

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) Senator SIEWERT: For the group of people who applied, do you have an understanding of where they ended up? Did they end up on Newstart, Youth Allowance or with no income support?

Ms Campbell: Customers with a rejected claim, where do they go?

Ms Golightly: We make the offer of whether they would like to go on to another payment, which is usually Newstart. It is up to the customer if they wish to do that, but most do take up that offer.

Senator SIEWERT: Do you have any data on that?

Ms Golightly: I do not have the numbers with me, but I can take that on notice.

- b) Senator SIEWERT: Can you also take on notice where that 75 per cent ends up?

Ms Golightly: Yes.

- c) Senator SIEWERT: No, it was a different one. I am talking about the process now where people have to participate in an approved program for 18 months.

Ms Golightly: There is a criterion that you need to have undertaken a program of support. The figure could include people who have not undertaken that program. They have a time period to complete that program. We can see what data we have on that for you.

Senator SIEWERT: I would be interested in knowing: of that 75 per cent how many were rejected because they had not undertaken a program of support and then came back through the system.

Ms Golightly: Yes, I understand that.

Answer:

a) and b)

The following data reports the status of claimants two weeks following a Disability Support Pension (DSP) new claim rejection.

Table 1: Disability Support Pension rejected claims – income support payments

Income Support Payment	1 July 2015 to 31 December 2015
Newstart Allowance	71%
No Income Support Payment*	17%
Youth Allowance	4%
Parenting Payment Single	2%
Other **	6%
TOTAL	100%
*Claimants who are not on income support two weeks following a DSP rejection may have a new claim for DSP or another income support payment in progress. **includes payments where percentage is 1% or less, for example, Special Benefit or Age Pension.	

- c) Of the DSP new claims rejected in the current financial year to 31 December 2015, 4 per cent (1,535) were rejected on the basis of not satisfying the Program of Support (POS) criterion.

The data on how many of the 1,535 rejected on the basis of POS who then came back through the system can only be sourced by extracting and analysing each individual customer record. This information has not been provided due to the resources required to complete this work.