

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

### ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 11 FEBRUARY 2016 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Department of Human Services

**Topic:** Disability Support Pension – accuracy of assessments

**Question reference number:** HS 32

**Senator:** Siewert

**Type of question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

- a) Does the Department have any data measuring its accuracy in undertaking DSP assessments?
- b) Is there an independent review or oversight to ensure DHS or privately contracted doctors are accurately assessing applications?

#### **Answer:**

- a) Payment accuracy results are reported in the Annual Report of the Department of Social Services.
- b) The Department of Human Services assesses claims for Disability Support Pension (DSP) in accordance with legislation and policy, taking into account relevant evidence and expert health professional advice. The department has a quality assurance framework which includes multiple quality control checks for all stages of the DSP assessment process.  
If a person is not satisfied with the department's decision they can ask for a review of the decision which is carried out by an Authorised Review Officer who was not involved in the original decision.  
If a person remains dissatisfied, they can request an independent review by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.  
In January 2016, the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) tabled its Performance Audit report into *Qualifying for the Disability Support Pension*. The ANAO found that the department's assessment of DSP claims was in keeping with underpinning legislation and policy guidelines.