

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 11 FEBRUARY 2016 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Disability Support Pension

Question reference number: HS 143

Senator: Cameron

Type of question: Written

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Question:

In the financial years 2013-14, 2014-15, and so far in 2015-16 how many people under 35 on the DSP have had:

- a) A participation plan developed under the 2014 budget changes.
- b) Their DSP payments suspended.
- c) Their DSP payments cancelled.
- d) How many DSP recipients and applicants who have had their applications rejected or their DSP cancelled, have had their DSP reinstated or granted upon review?

Answer:

- a) From 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, there were 22,585 recipients under 35 years of age who had agreed to a Disability Support Pension (DSP) Participation Plan. In the current financial year to 31 December 2015, there were 3,081 recipients under 35 years of age who agreed a DSP Participation Plan. The 2014 Budget changes were not in effect in the financial year 2013-14.
- b) From 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, there were 2,792 recipients who were suspended as a result of compliance action. In the current financial year to 31 December 2015, there were 683 recipients who were suspended as a result of compliance action for a total of 3,475 recipients suspended since the measure was implemented on 1 July 2014. 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.
- c) From 1 July 2014 to 31 December 2015, there were 415 recipients who had their DSP cancelled as a result of compliance action.
- d) From 1 July 2014 to 31 December 2015, of the 415 payment cancellations there were 300 recipients who had their DSP reinstated following an appeal of the decision to cancel their DSP. This measure affected current DSP recipients (including those under 35 years of age who were granted payment post the implementation date of 1 July 2014). There were no applicants rejected as a result of the measure nor claims granted upon review.