

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2015-16 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 1.6 Income Support for Seniors

Question No: SQ16-000117

Topic: Treatment of Income from Defined Benefit Schemes

Hansard page: Written

Senator Carol Brown asked:

How do the number of pensioners impacted by the changes to the treatment of defined benefits and the average amount lost compare to the estimates the Government made public when the measure was announced?

Answer:

There are around 140,000 income support recipients with defined benefit income streams.

For the first full year it was estimated that approximately:

- 46,000 income support recipients were expected to receive a reduced payment by an average of \$82.70 a fortnight (\$2,150 a year); and
- 1,700 income support recipients were expected to be cancelled.

As at 1 January 2016:

- 46,366 income support recipients received a reduced pension/allowance by an average of \$86.46 a fortnight (\$2,248 a year); and
- 1,572 income support recipients had their payment cancelled.