

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Social Services Portfolio
2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 32

Topic: Disability Support Pension - Review recipients aged under 35 years

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Brown asked:

As part of the measure 'DSP - review recipients aged under 35 years' the Department's Portfolio Budget Statement, at page 36, shows an increase in administered funding in Outcome 5.1 of \$47.2 million over the forward estimates.

- a) What is this new \$47 million being spent on?
- b) What programs are being funded or expanded?
- c) Who will be eligible to access these new services? Are they for people who remain on the DSP or who lose the DSP?
- d) Will there be an open tender process for any new services funded by this measure?
- e) Is there any allocation for advocacy groups?

Answer:

- a) Costs for the 'DSP - review recipients aged under 35 years' measure include funding for Department of Employment and Department of Social Services to provide employment services (including Disability Employment Services (DES) and Job Services Australia (JSA)) as well as funding for Department of Human Services to undertake the reviews.
- b) Additional referrals to DES and JSA have been funded through the measure.
- c) People who are on DSP can always volunteer for DES and JSA assistance. Under the Participation Requirements measure some DSP recipients will have a compulsory activity to attend an employment service. Under the review measure, some DSP recipients will lose eligibility for DSP on review and may move to another income support payment with referral to an employment service to address their barriers to work.
- d) No new services are being funded under the measure.
- e) No funding has been allocated for advocacy groups.