

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

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 80

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

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Brown asked:

The 2005-06 Budget measure 'Welfare to Work - increasing participation of people with a disability', included reviews of all who were granted DSP under the existing 30-hour per week work test between 11 May 2005 and 30 June 2006. These reviews were then taken against the new 15-hour per week work test.

- a. How many people were granted DSP between 11 May 2005 and 30 June 2006?
- b. How many of these reviews were undertaken?
- c. Following these reviews, how many people were assessed as being no longer eligible for DSP under the 15 hour per week rule?
- d. Did the Department conduct any evaluation or prepare any reports on these reviews, and are these findings publicly available?

Answer:

The former Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations had program responsibility for Disability Support Pension (DSP) during this time. The answers below are estimates based on the available information.

- a. There were approximately 62,000 DSP recipients granted between 11 May 2005 and 30 June 2006.
- b. Those granted between 11 May 2005 and 30 June 2006 were reviewed, with the exception of those who were manifestly qualified for DSP and those that had stopped receiving DSP before a review could be conducted.
- c. Following review, approximately 4 per cent were assessed as no longer qualified under the 15-hour per week work capacity rule.
- d. The former Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations produced a report *Welfare to Work Evaluation Report* that is publically available. While it does not contain data on the reviews, it does contain some relevant information.