

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

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 138

Topic: Disability Support Pension - Compulsory Participation Requirements for people aged under 35

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Brown asked:

What reasonable adjustments will be put in place for people with disability who have compulsory participation requirements?

Answer:

Participation interviews will include a comprehensive discussion about the DSP recipient's barriers to employment, compulsory participation requirements and the consequences for not complying.

In addition, policy advice includes factors to consider before suspension or cancellation due to non-compliance. In certain circumstances it may be decided that a DSP recipient has not failed to comply.

These circumstances could include but are not limited to the following:

- difficulty with understanding their requirements or the consequences of not complying (first instance of non-compliance only),
- an exacerbation of an existing medical condition (including psychological/psychiatric conditions),
- an acquired brain injury,
- hospitalisation,
- drug/alcohol addiction,
- homelessness.