

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

**Outcome Number: 1**

**Question No: 369**

**Topic: DSP reassessment**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator Siewert** asked:

Recipients of the Disability Support Pension under the age of 35 who have an assessed working capacity of 8 hours or more per week and a participation plan will be required undertake compulsory activities, mostly focussed on seeking employment.

- (a) What proportion of people on DSP fall into this category?
- (b) How many hours of work will a DSP recipient have to do to not be economically disadvantaged by the changes?
- (c) What happens if a person on DSP can't find employment after the compulsory activities?

**Answer:**

a) Approximately 20,000 DSP recipients have a current participation plan, around 2.4 per cent of the DSP population. It is estimated that 5,000 new DSP recipients per year will have participation requirements.

b) The introduction of compulsory activities does not economically disadvantage DSP recipients.

c) If a DSP recipient does not find employment as a result of the compulsory activities, there is no penalty and they will continue to be assisted to maximum capacity through participation plans. DSP recipients with compulsory participation requirements are required to include a compulsory activity, such as connection with an employment service provider, in their participation plan until they no longer meet the criteria for compulsory participation requirements.