

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

**Outcome Number: 1**

**Question No: 771**

**Topic: Numbers on the DSP**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator Brown** asked:

Can the Department then indicate how much a person on the Carers Payment for the average period of time will be worse off under the new arrangements in the Budget compared to the current arrangement?

**Answer:**

This is not a calculation that the department would do as it would be subject to fluctuation from a range of sources. At each indexation point there would be variations to the parameters used for indexation. There are also changes to individuals' circumstances over their duration on payment as their pension rate is affected by a range of factors, including changes in marital status, housing tenure and income and assets levels. Average duration will also change with social and economic changes in the economy, including financial returns and with policy changes.