

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 1 JUNE 2017 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Disability Support Pension – Under 35 Reviews

Question reference number: HS 14 (SQ17-000095)

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Hansard page 116

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 21 July 2017

Number of pages: 2

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: Have you been following up the under-35s that were reassessed? Where have they ended up?

Dr Charker: I would have to take advice on that.

Senator SIEWERT: You may not have it with you.

Dr Charker: I think we might have to take that on notice, actually. We will take it on notice.

Senator SIEWERT: I am interested in seeing where the under-35s that have been through this process have ended up. How many have ended up, as you said, adding to their hours if they were working already? How many have found employment? How many, if they were transferred to Newstart, for example, are still there? I want to see if it is effective.

Dr Charker: We will have to take that on notice.

Answer:

As of 31 December 2016, the Department had finalised all 24,158 reviews initiated as part of the 2014–15 Budget measure to review the medical eligibility of certain Disability Support Pension (DSP) recipients aged under 35 years of age. There were 4,510 reviews that resulted in a cancellation of DSP.

The Department is able to report on the number of recipients whose DSP was cancelled following review, and who were in receipt of an alternate income support payment one month after the finalisation of their review (Table 1 on the following page).

Table 1

DSP under 35 years of age recipients – Destination of recipients whose DSP was cancelled following the review (one month following review finalisation).

Data extracted 31 December 2016.

Income Support Payment	Number of DSP Recipients Cancelled	Percentage of Cancellations
Newstart Allowance	2,470	55
Parenting Payment Single	426	9
Parenting Payment Partnered	213	4.7
Carer Payment	85	1.9
Youth Allowance	263	5.8
Austudy	71	1.6
ABSTUDY	1	0
Sickness Allowance	1	0
No Income Support Payment	980	22
Total	4,510	100

The Department does not capture data about a person once they are no longer in receipt of income support.