

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2017-18 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments**

**Question No: SQ17-000343**

**Topic: Pensioner Education Supplement and Education Entry Payment**

**Hansard page: 119**

**Senator Murray Watt asked:**

For each group, are you able to quantify how much they will be worse off as a result of the savings measure which restructures the two payments? The average impact per person on each of the payment types and the number of people that those changes apply to.

**Answer:**

From 1 January 2018, subject to passage of the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Better Targeting Student Payments) Bill 2017, payment rates of the Pensioner Education Supplement and Education Entry Payment will be better aligned with study loads. Tables 1 and 2 below provide indicative estimates of the average numbers of people who will be affected over a year by the changes to the payment rates. The average annual reduction to the rate of Education Entry Payment is estimated to be \$70.36. The average fortnightly reductions to the Pensioner Education Supplement are shown in Table 1.

In addition, the Pensioner Education Supplement will be paid only during study periods and not during study breaks and holiday periods. On average, it is estimated eligible people studying for a full year would be paid Pensioner Education Supplement for 21 fortnights.

**Table 1: Pensioner Education Supplement – Indicative Annual Estimates**

<b>Income Support Payment</b>	<b>Number estimated to have no change to rate</b>	<b>Number estimated to receive a reduced rate</b>	<b>Average fortnightly reduction for those with a reduced rate</b>
Carer Payment	715	2,778	\$19.70
Disability Support Pension	2,673	13,556	\$20.05
DVA Invalidity Service Pension	<5	<5	\$20.07
Newstart Allowance	560	2,196	\$19.74
Parenting Payment Partnered	<5	<5	\$20.07
Parenting Payment Single	3,373	13,677	\$19.76
DVA Partner on Pension - Invalidity	<5	<5	\$18.79
Widow Allowance	6	29	\$20.03
Wife Pension (DSP)	<5	7	\$20.07

**Table 2: Education Entry Payment – Indicative Annual Estimates**

<b>Income Support Payment</b>	<b>Number estimated to have no change to rate</b>	<b>Number estimated to receive a reduced rate</b>
Carer Payment	1,081	4,478
Disability Support Pension	4,108	17,012
Newstart Allowance	2,958	12,250
Parenting Payment Partnered	102	424
Parenting Payment Single	5,274	21,839
Partner Allowance	<5	<5
Special Benefit	<5	<5
Widow Allowance	<5	10
Wife Pension (DSP)	<5	14
Youth Allowance (other)	5	21