

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: SQ17-000518

Topic: Mental health, comorbidity and budget measures

Hansard page: Written

Senator Rachel Siewert asked:

Please advise the percentage of income support recipients who have a mental illness, including/excluding those on DSP.

Answer:

As at 31 March 2017, there were a total of 324,231 recipients who had a primary psychological or psychiatric medical condition. This includes recipients of Disability Support Pension (DSP), Newstart Allowance (NSA) with a partial capacity to work (PCW), Parenting Payment Single (PPS) with a PCW, Sickness Allowance (SA), Special Benefit (SpB) with a PCW and Youth Allowance (YA) with a PCW. This represents 34.7 per cent of the total population of these payments.

Excluding DSP recipients, there were a total of 67,279 recipients who had a primary psychological or psychiatric medical condition, or 37.4 per cent of the total population of these payments, as at 31 March 2017.

This data does not include other income support payment types such as Carer Payment, Age Pension or student payments. Information on medical conditions for recipients of these payments is not routinely collected as it is not relevant for payment qualification.