Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2011-12 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5   **Question No:** 257

Topic: DSP

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

With reference to the changes to the DSP assessment process that came into effect from 3 September 2011:

a) How many new entrants to the DSP have there been since 3 September 2011? How does this compare to the same period in 2010?

b) How many people are now participating in a program of support as a result of these changes?

c) How many people have been classified as having a severe impairment under these changes?

d) How many people were accepted for the Newstart Allowance since these changes came into effect because they were not eligible for the DSP?

e) How many people have been assessed as having participated in a program of support since 3 September 2011, and are currently on the Disability Support Pension?

Answer:

These answers relate to finalised DSP claims only and figures may change in the future as DSP claims that are currently undetermined are finalised.

a) There were 11,757 DSP claims granted in the period 3 September to 31 October 2011. This compares to 15,285 DSP claims granted in the period 3 September to 31 October 2010.

b) c) d) and e)

It is not possible to provide robust data in relation to these questions at this time. This measure only applies to DSP claims lodged on or after 3 September 2011, not all assessments undertaken after this date. Most assessments undertaken in the weeks after 3 September were for DSP claims lodged prior to 3 September, which were not subject to the changes.

In addition, DSP claims take some time to process. The Department of Human Services benchmark for finalising 70% of DSP new claims is within 49 days. Accordingly, this has not allowed sufficient time for the data to be extracted and analysed for quality assurance purposes.

Once the data is finalised, we will provide it to the Committee.