

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 217

Topic: Disability Support Pension

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

In 2012-13, how many DSP claim rejections were appealed, by stage of appeal? Please show outcomes of the appeal.

Answer:

The following table shows the number of appeals received during 2012-13 for DSP claims rejected, by the stage of appeal:

Stage of Appeal	Total appeals received during 2012-13
Review Officer*	18,346
Social Security Appeals Tribunal	3,320
Administrative Appeals Tribunal (customer appeal)	765
Administrative Appeals Tribunal (secretary appeal)	<20

For appeals of rejected DSP claims that were decided during 2012-13, the following table shows the appeal outcomes for each stage of appeal:

Stage of Appeal	Decision Outcome	Total decided during 2012-13
Review Officer*	Affirmed	9,177
	Set aside	4,169
	Withdrawn	1,156
	Varied	237
	Dismissed/No Jurisdiction	<20
Social Security Appeals Tribunal	Affirmed	2,605
	Set aside	397
	Withdrawn	152
	Varied	<20
	Dismissed/No Jurisdiction	25
Administrative Appeals Tribunal (customer appeal)	Affirmed	116
	Set aside	<20
	Withdrawn	255
	Settled/Decision by consent	170
	Dismissed/No Jurisdiction	29
Administrative Appeals Tribunal (secretary appeal)	Set aside	<20
	Withdrawn	<20

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To protect individuals' privacy, totals of less than 20 are represented as <20.

There were nil appeals received or decided at the Federal Court level, during this period.

*'Review Officer' refers to Original Decision Makers (ODM), Subject Matter Experts (SME) and Authorised Review Officers (ARO). During the period 12 March 2012 and 30 April 2012, the Department of Human Services (DHS) implemented changes to its internal review arrangements and reporting processes. During this time ODM and ARO reviews were replaced by reviews by a "Review Officer", which are a combination of SME reviews and ARO reviews. Prior to the changes, ODM and ARO outcomes were reported separately. However, affirmation rates (where the DHS decision remains in place) in "Review Officer" data are lower than previously reported for ARO decisions. This is because SMEs cannot affirm or vary decisions.