

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2016 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Disability Support Pension – Review Process and Outcomes

Question reference number: 36 (HS 37)

Senator: Watt

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2016

Number of pages: 2

Question:

With regards to Disability Support Pension (DSP) reassessment;

- a) How many DSP recipients were reassessed in;
 - i) 2014/15?
 - ii) 2015/16?
 - iii) The year to date?
- b) How many clients found ineligible for DSP and placed on Newstart Allowance have since ceased receiving either benefit because;
 - i) They found employment?
 - ii) They are deceased?
 - iii) They became eligible for the Aged Pension?
 - iv) For unknown or other reasons?
- c) What was the average cost to DHS of DSP review and reassessment in the last financial year?

Answer:

- a) Table 1 contains the number of DSP recipients reviewed under the following budget measures from 1 July 2014 to 30 September 2016:
 - DSP *Review recipients aged under 35 years* (2014-15 budget), and
 - National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Savings Fund – *Disability Support Pension Medical Reviews measure* (2015-16 budget).

Table 1: DSP review measure related reassessments

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 (as at 30/9/2016)
Total	9,095	14,629	509

Note: the data contained in this table does not include DSP reviews undertaken as part of usual compliance programmes such as Random Sample Surveys.

- b) Table 2 contains a breakdown of recipients, for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 September 2016, who claimed Newstart Allowance (NSA) following a medical review of DSP eligibility under Budget measures. These NSA recipients subsequently also ceased receiving that payment between 1 July 2014 and 30 September 2016:

Table 2: NSA recipients (transferred post DSP review) who then ceased receipt of NSA

Reason	Total
Employment	The department does not collect this data
Deceased	Nil
Transferred to Aged Pension	Nil
Unknown reasons	Nil
Other reasons (for example, failing to report income, commencing or resuming study, voluntarily withdrawing, or receiving a precluding payment)	12

- c) Funding appropriated to the Department of Human Services for the Disability Support Pension (DSP) – *Review recipients aged under 35 years* measure for financial year 2015-16 was \$8.5 million.