

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 4 - Employment

DEEWR Question No. EW1049_12

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

Job Capacity Assessment issues

In the year 2010-11 and from 1 July to 31 December 2011 how many specialist medical reports were funded (please provide numbers and percentages)? How does this compare to the previous two years?

Answer

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) assumed responsibility for Disability Support Pension (DSP) assessment policy on 1 July 2011. The transfer of DSP assessment policy to FaHCSIA also included oversight of Specialist Assessments, which can be used to inform eligibility for DSP. The Department of Human Services (DHS) conducts in-house and external Specialist Assessments which are funded by FaHCSIA.

Specialist Assessments for job seekers are limited to circumstances where the evidence supplied to the assessor indicates the person may be eligible for DSP.

The data provided in the table below is for employment services related Job Capacity Assessments (now known as ESATs) when DEEWR was responsible for the assessments.

Period	Specialist Assessments	% of Total Assessments
2009 - 10	5,848	1.3%
2010 – 11	4,779	1.2%

As a result of the 1 July 2011 program changes, DEEWR no longer holds Specialist Assessment records. Data in relation to those figures has been sourced from the DHS. Any further questions or clarification on Specialist Assessments conducted from 1 July 2011 should be referred to the DHS.

Period	Specialist Assessments	% of Total Assessments
1 July 11- 31 December 11	2,079	1.1%