

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2005-2006 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
2 and 3 NOVEMBER 2005**

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 3: Increased workforce participation

Output Group: 3.1 Working age policy

Output: 3.1.1 Working age policy legislation

Question Number: W438-06

Question:

Senator Siewert asked in writing: Has the Department done its own modelling on the impact of the welfare to work reforms on those receiving a Disability Support Pension? If so, is this to be made publicly available?

Answer:

The Welfare to Work changes will not affect people who were receiving the Disability Support Pension (DSP) on 10 May 2005. These people will continue to receive DSP while they remain qualified under the current eligibility criteria, including the 30 hours per week work capacity rule.

People who claim DSP between 11 May 2005 and 30 June 2006 will be assessed under the current eligibility criteria. However, they will be reassessed in periodic reviews against the new eligibility criteria, including the 15 hours work capacity rule. People who are not qualified for DSP under the new criteria will be assessed for an alternative income support payment, generally Newstart Allowance. The number of people affected is provided in answer W016-06.