

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Department of Human Services

Additional Estimates 2007-08 – February 2008



Question: HS24

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Centrelink – Disability Support Pension

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written

SENATOR SIEWERT asked on 22/02/2008:

- (a) How many people on the Disability Support Pension have been reviewed since figures were since 1 July 2007 and of those how many have stayed on the Disability Support Pension and how many have moved to Newstart Allowance?
- (b) How many people have applied since the start of the new system for the Disability Support Pension and how many have been assessed to go on the Disability Support Pension and how many have been assessed to go on to Newstart Allowance?

Answer:

- (a) There were 84,585 Disability Support Pension reviews conducted between 1 July 2007 and 29 February 2008. This number represents all Disability Support Pension reviews for the period, not just reviews of impairment rating and work capacity.

Of these, 83,809 stayed on the Disability Support Pension and 336 moved to Newstart. The number of customers who have continued on Disability Support Pension is based on the total number of reviews minus cancellations.

- (b) Disability Support Pension claims from 1 July 2006 to 7 March 2008:

Granted	Rejected	Yet to be determined
103,156	59,644	9,507

Note: Those rejected will be granted Newstart (or another payment if eligible) and this includes those assessed as having partial work capacity of 15-29 hours and those who were not eligible for Disability Support Pension for other reasons, such as low impairment score, no permanent disability or not residentially qualified.