

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

**ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES – 9 FEBRUARY 2010
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Disability Support Pension

Question reference number: HS 22

Senator: BOYCE

Type of question: Hansard F&PA page 103, 9 February 2010

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 March 2010

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator BOYCE - There are two other issues that I want to raise; one is the disability support pension. In the last estimates hearings we talked about the fact that disability support pensioners between 16 and 21 received a generic letter telling them they were going to get an increase, along with other pensioners, but in fact they did not. I then had a fascinating conversation with FaHCSIA around when is a pensioner not a pensioner. One thing that we did not appear to clear up at the last estimates hearing was how many people between 16 and 21 receive the disability support pension.

Mr Cowan – In that particular group – under 21 with no dependents - which is the group at issue, there were 19,000 or 20,000 – it was that sort of magnitude.

Senator BOYCE – Would you take it on notice and give me the exact figure on it?

Answer:

As at 25 December 2009, there were:

Age (without dependent children)	Disability Support Pension Numbers
16 – 20 years	24,492
21 years	5,797
Total	30,289

Source: Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs