

## 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 25

**Senator:** FIFIELD

**Type of question:** Hansard F&PA page 109, 9 February 2010

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

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

Senator FIFIELD - Are there any figures which indicate how many DSP recipients have a legal guardian and how many of those DSP recipients who have a legal guardian and who move overseas would lose their pension as a result of staying overseas for more than 13 weeks?

**Answer:**

Centrelink does not collect information on the number of Disability Support Pension (DSP) recipients with a legal guardian. However, as mentioned at the Senate Estimates hearing on 9 February 2010, Centrelink does have information on DSP recipients with nominees. A nominee is a third party who a DSP recipient can request to have appointed to act on their behalf when conducting business with Centrelink.

There were 133,859 DSP recipients with a nominee as at 29 January 2010.

The number of DSP recipients with a nominee, who had their payment suspended or cancelled as a result of being overseas for more than 13 weeks since July 2008, are outlined in the following table.

	2008-09 Financial Year		2009-10 Financial Year YTD as at 12/2/2010	
	Payment Suspended: recipient overseas at 13 weeks	Payment Cancelled: recipient overseas at 26 weeks	Payment Suspended: recipient overseas at 13 weeks	Payment Cancelled: recipient overseas at 26 weeks
Number of DSP recipients with a nominee who were overseas and had their payment suspended or cancelled	610	174	528	76