

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES – 29 MAY 2008**

**Human Services Portfolio**



**Department/Agency:** Centrelink  
**Outcome/Output Group:** Outcome 1, Output 1.1  
**Topic:** Centrelink – Disability Support Pension Claims

**Senator:** Siewert  
**Question reference number:** HS28b  
**Type of question:** Written  
**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 11 July 2008

**Question:**

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:**

Between 1 July 2006 and 30 May 2008, 199,592 people have claimed Disability Support Pension. Of those people, 121,205 have been granted Disability Support Pension, 69,401 have been rejected and 8,986 are yet to be determined. Generally Centrelink determines DSP claims within 49 days from date of lodgement. Those rejected will be assessed for other payments they may be eligible for, including Newstart Allowance. In some cases, people applying for Disability Support Pension are already in receipt of an alternative income support payment.

As Centrelink data sources do not track individual customers, it cannot be readily determined how many claimants for the Disability Support Pension in this period were subsequently granted Newstart Allowance, or any other payment. To obtain this information would be highly resource intensive and the level of expenditure that would be required to obtain it cannot be justified.

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