

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 October 2009 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Pensions – Cancellation of benefits

Question reference number: HS23

Senator: Boyce

Type of question: *Written*

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2009

Number of pages: 1

Question:

How many weeks can a pensioner receive a \$0 benefit before their pension is cancelled and they then need to reapply?

Answer:

A pensioner can receive a \$0 benefit for 12 weeks before their pension is cancelled. If the customer's circumstances change, making them again eligible for the pension, they will need to reclaim. However, if this happens within 13 weeks of cancellation, Centrelink has an abridged claim process to facilitate early resumption of payment.