

## **Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

### **ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES - 16 FEBRUARY 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

#### **Human Services Portfolio**

**Topic:** Disability Support Pension

**Question reference number:** HSW 66

**Senator:** Fifield

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 29 March 2012

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

- a) Are Centrelink employees required to ask whether a person has experienced suicidal thoughts when applying for the disability support pension on the grounds of mental illness?
- b) Does the response to such a question affect a person's eligibility for the DSP?

#### **Answer:**

- a) Department of Human Services (DHS) employees are not required to ask whether a person has experienced suicidal thoughts when applying for the disability support pension on the grounds of mental illness.
- b) Eligibility for DSP is based on assessment of the level of impairment caused by diagnosed permanent medical conditions. DHS assessors take into account all relevant medical evidence when determining whether a person is eligible for DSP.