

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2016-2017 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments

Question No: SQ17-000077

Topic: Exemptions

Hansard page: 87

Senator Rachel Siewert, asked:

How many of the 95 per cent that were assessed as having a partial capacity to work have subsequently gone onto total exemption or temporary exemption?

Answer:

At 30 December 2016, following the Disability Support Pension (DSP) Under 35 Review, there were a total of 2,764 recipients who were under 35 and transferred from DSP to Newstart Allowance. Of these, 2,630 recipients (or 95 per cent), were also assessed as having a partial capacity to work.

Temporary Exemption

Of the 2,630 recipients who were assessed as having a partial capacity to work, 178 recipients had a temporary exemption as at 30 December 2016. A temporary exemption may be granted, for a standard exemption period of up to 13 weeks, to recipients with a temporary incapacity.

Total Exemption

Of the same cohort, less than 5 recipients who were assessed as having a partial capacity to work had a serious incapacity exemption. A serious incapacity exemption may be granted, for a period of up to 12 months initially, for recipients who are suffering from a serious illness and are undergoing and/or recovering from intensive medical treatment. In order to protect individuals' privacy, as this data value is less than 5, the exact number cannot be provided.