

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 218

Topic: DSP Eligibility

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

With regards to the series of legislative changes that have been made as part of the 2011-12 budget announcements to reform DSP eligibility, has the Department made any assessment of the impact of those changes? If yes, please provide details, including the number of people who have been affected by the changes, provide the title of any reports that have been produced and table copies, or outline the timeline to completion for any evaluation that is currently underway. If no, why not, and are any assessments planned?

Answer:

As part of the 2011-12 Budget, the implementation of the More Efficient and Accurate Assessments for Disability Support Pension (DSP) measure (Program of Support component) was brought forward, from 1 January 2012 to 3 September 2011. A formal evaluation of this measure will be undertaken in 2013-14.

Other measures affecting DSP announced as part of the 2011-12 Budget were implemented on 1 July 2012. These were Participation Requirements for certain DSP recipients under age 35; and allowing all DSP recipients to work up to 30 hours a week without affecting their qualification. No formal assessment of the impact of these measures has yet been undertaken.

An evaluation plan for these measures is being developed. While a timeframe for evaluation has yet to be established, sufficient time needs to be allowed for the measures to bed down and for a range of characteristics and trends to be collected as part of a robust data set. In the meantime, FaHCSIA is monitoring the implementation of these measures with the Department of Human Services and input from the DSP Advisory Group