

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 22 OCTOBER 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Department of Human Services

**Topic:** Disability Support Pension – Update on Participation Plans

**Question reference number:** HS 89

**Senator:** Cameron

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 11 December 2015

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

Please provide an update on the outcomes of the participation plans for DSP recipients under 35 years.

#### **Answer:**

As at 30 October 2015, there were 20,275 Disability Support Pension (DSP) recipients who had a current Participation Plan.

The following approved activities can be included as the required compulsory activity in a DSP Participation Plan:

- education and training;
- employment;
- connection with an employment service provider;
- approved study designed to increase, vocational skills (part-time or full-time); or
- apprenticeship/traineeship.

Between 1 July 2014 and 30 October 2015, there were 14,365 recipients who had an Employment Services activity in their DSP Participation Plan. This is a cumulative number which includes recipients who no longer have a current Employment Services activity because, for example, they have turned 36 years of age or chosen an alternate compulsory activity. The Department is not able to provide a further breakdown of this data.

From 1 July 2014 to 30 October 2015, there were 3,236 recipients who had their DSP suspended as a result of compliance action. Payments can be suspended for a range of reasons such as not signing a Participation Plan, not attending an interview or not participating in a compulsory activity.

From 1 July 2014 to 30 October 2015, there were 94 recipients who had their DSP cancelled as a result of compliance action. Cancellations can occur after three separate incidents of not undertaking compulsory activities.