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JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

Report tabled: Commonwealth risk management

Issue date: Wednesday, 10 May 2017

Disability Support Pension risk management recommended

The [Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit](#) has today tabled a report on risk management, efficiency and accountability with regard to the administration of the Disability Support Pension. The Committee's report is based on the Auditor-General's [report](#) on Qualifying for the Disability Support Pension.

Approximately 118,000 Disability Support Pension recipients are expected to be reviewed over six years. The Committee noted that the assessment and review processes audited by the ANAO were found to be in keeping with legislation, policy and guidance.

However, taking into account new processes introduced since the audit and evidence submitted to the inquiry, the Committee concluded there is further scope for administrative and risk management improvements to the Disability Support Pension program.

The report makes nine recommendations, six of which relate to performance monitoring and reporting, including that the Auditor-General consider a follow-up audit. The Committee also recommends:

- improving data matching across government to exclude certain recipients, such as those in residential care, from review of their pension
- increasing the 21 day period recipients being medically reviewed have to provide documented evidence
- examining whether people with chromosomal disorders, such as Down syndrome, should be granted the pension on diagnosis alone, without having to establish prognosis

Committee Chair, Senator Dean Smith, said risk management is essential to effective administration of Government business.

"The Committee's recommendations go to managing two risks: efficiency in the administration of the Disability Support Pension, and burdens placed on individuals with disability," Senator Smith said.

Media inquiries:



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