

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2010-11 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 251

Topic: Disability Support Pension

Hansard Page: written

Senator Siewert asked:

Disability Support Pension recipient publications

Various Departments have in the past published a well-received statistical compendium to assist with understanding the Disability Support Pension called Characteristics of the Disability Support Pension Recipients. It was previously produced annually by FaCS, FaHCSIA and DEWR.

- Are there plans to produce and publish the kind of information previously available through Characteristics of the Disability Support Pension Recipients and make it available?
- Is this information still being collected?
- Can you please provide the relevant tables for the year 2009-10?

DSP 2-year workforce “suspension” provisions

- Can you please provide the number of Disability Support Pension recipients who have accessed the unique two year DSP suspension “return to pension” provisions (that are meant to encourage people with disabilities to try their hand in the labour market) for each financial year since 2004?
- Have there been any departmental evaluations or reviews of these provisions? If so, can you please table them?
- How are these beneficial provisions promoted to people with disabilities, their families, carers and community organisations?
- Has the Government undertaken any evaluation or research into awareness of or attitudes to these provisions?

Answer:

Disability Support Pension recipient publications

- The *Characteristics of Disability Support Pension Recipients 2009* and the *Characteristics of Disability Support Pension Recipients 2010* reports will be available shortly. They will be provided on the FaHCSIA website as soon as the collation and quality assurance of the data is complete.

- Yes, information on the characteristics of people receiving Disability Support Pension (DSP) is still being collected.
- Data for the financial year ending June 2010 will be published in the *Characteristics of Disability Support Pension Recipients 2010* report mentioned above.

DSP 2-year workforce “suspension” provisions

- Data on the number of DSP recipients who were suspended because they were engaged in employment is tabled below:

Financial year	Number of DSP recipients suspended due to returning to work
2003-04	11,751
2004-05	9,347
2005-06	10,509
2006-07	10,273
2007-08	11,784
2008-09	9,451
2009-10	7,725
2010-11 (F/Y to 11/3/2011)	7,157

- There has not been a review of the suspension provisions.
- The two year suspension rule has been promoted to people with disabilities, their families, carers and community organisations in publications on the Centrelink website including the Centrelink fact sheet, *Options and services for DSP Customers*; and the Centrelink DSP customer newsletter *Pulse*. FaHCSIA has provided information for DSP recipients with some capacity to work in the online fact sheet *Helping people to work*.