

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2011-12 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** 5

**Question No:** 332

**Topic:** Disability Support Pension

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Siewert** asked:

Please provide the number of claims for DSP in each month from January 2011 to February 2012, the number of grants and rejections, and for the rejections a breakdown of the reasons for rejection including insufficient impairment levels and (for claims after August 2011) non-completion of a Program of Support.

For those whose claims were rejected on Program of Support grounds since September 2011, please provide, broken down according to the month in which their claim was rejected, their current (most recently available) status, including income support payment received (if any) and whether they are still undertaking a Program of Support.

**Answer:**

For the number of DSP claims, grants and rejections in each month from January 2011 to February 2012, please see Table 1 below.

For the breakdown of rejections by reason in each month from January 2011 to February 2012, please see Table 2 (Attachment A).

For claims rejected on Program of Support (POS) grounds from 3 September 2011 to 29 February 2012:

- Table 3 below shows the number of claims rejected in each month and the number of claimants who were connected to a DEEWR funded POS on 17 May 2012.
- Table 4 below shows the number of claimants receiving an income support payment as at 27 April 2012 and the type of payment received.

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**Table 1**

<b>DSP new claims, grants and rejections Jan 2011 - Feb 2012</b>			
Month	Claims*	Grants	Rejections
Jan-11	10,981	6,342	4,639
Feb-11	11,038	6,538	4,500
Mar-11	11,058	6,590	4,468
Apr-11	14,758	8,491	6,267
May-11	12,666	7,145	5,521
Jun-11	11,445	6,358	5,087
Jul-11	13,446	7,429	6,017
Aug-11	11,286	6,029	5,257
Sep-11	14,498	7,852	6,646
Oct-11	10,774	5,578	5,196
Nov-11	10,743	5,600	5,143
Dec-11	11,569	6,114	5,455
Jan-12^	9,626	4,721	4,905
Feb-12^	9,005	3,883	5,122

\* Claims finalised / determined.

^ All claims lodged before 1 January 2012 are assessed under the old (pre-1 January 2012) Impairment Tables, even if they are finalised / determined after this date.

**Table 3**

<b>POS rejections &amp; program placements</b>		
Month	Rejections*	Program placements^
Sep-11	12	5
Oct-11	58	20
Nov-11	96	45
Dec-11	69	35
Jan-12	111	48
Feb-12	174	71

\* Finalised / determined for this period.

^ Connected to a DEEWR funded program as at 17 May 2012. People whose DSP claim is rejected on POS grounds may not have a current program placement for a range of reasons. For example, the person may have a temporary incapacity exemption, be a voluntary jobseeker and elect not to participate, or be participating in a non-DEEWR funded program.

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**Table 4**

<b>POS Rejections* by current Income Support Payment</b>			
Month	DSP	Newstart Allowance	Other
Sep-11	3	6	0
Oct-11	15	28	3
Nov-11	21	46	8
Dec-11	14	33	5
Jan-12	16	54	17
Feb-12	15	93	20

\* Finalised / determined for this period.