

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 27 FEBRUARY 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Disability Support Pension – exits to employment

Question reference number: HS 39

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written

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Number of pages: 2

Question:

For each year since 2005-06, indicate the number and percentage of DSP recipients who have exited from the DSP for employment?

Answer:

The Department of Human Services does not collect specific data to identify the number of customers who have exited Disability Support Pension for employment reasons.

The department is able to identify a number of reason codes which suggest cancellation from payment was due to employment related reasons; for example, where earnings exceed the threshold for a number of consecutive fortnights. There are also codes that make clear the reasons for cancellation was employment related; for example, returned to work. The table below provides a count of the number of cancellations with these and similar reasons codes in each financial year from 2005-06 to 2012-13.

Please note that the data provides a count of cancellations and not people. A person may have more than one cancellation or can be cancelled and return to payment within the year. Also, because the data provides a count of cancellations and not people, a percentage of Disability Support Pension recipients who have exited for employment reasons is not available.

Finally, the data may undercount the number of customers who cancel from Disability Support because of employment. A reason such as 'failed to report', for example, could reflect employment and the customer simply no longer reporting rather than notifying the department of a change in circumstance.

Financial year	Count of Cancellations for Reason Codes Relevant to Employment
2005-06	3,754
2006-07	4,521
2007-08	5,007
2008-09	4,403
2009-10	2,703

2010-11	3,026
2011-12	3,825
2012-13	3,320