

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES – 26 FEBRUARY 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Disability Support Pension – Reviews

Question reference number: HS 34

Senator: Cameron

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 April 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

The government has started to review those on the DSP between the ages of 18 and 35 years.

- a) What is the rationale for reviewing those assessed with mental health issues?
- b) How many people have been assessed?
- c) How many people as a result of this review have been removed from DSP and transferred to the Newstart payment, Youth allowance, another payment?
- d) How many of those who have as a result of losing access to the DSP have appealed this decision?
- e) How many appeals have been successful?
- f) Does the department track the impact on these citizens of losing access to the DSP in terms of increased homelessness and reduced mental health?

Answer:

- a) This question should be referred to the Department of Social Services as they have policy responsibility for Disability Support Pension (DSP).
- b) From 1 July 2014 to 13 March 2015, there were 12,438 DSP recipients who had a review of their eligibility for DSP initiated and 4,079 reviews have been completed. This process takes some time to complete, due to the need for customers to provide medical evidence and for comprehensive assessments against the revised impairment tables and of work capacity to be undertaken.
- c) As a result of this review, for the period 1 July 2014 to 13 March 2015, there were 12 recipients removed from DSP and transferred to another payment. Of these, 10 recipients were transferred to Newstart Allowance and two to Parenting Payment.
- d) From 1 July 2014 to 13 March 2015, 308 recipients appealed the decision to cancel their DSP.
- e) From 1 July 2014 to 13 March 2015, the decision to cancel DSP was overturned for one recipient as a result of clarification of medical evidence by the Authorised Review Officer. This means the recipient continues to receive DSP.
- f) No.