



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Social Services**

Senator Zed Seselja  
Chair  
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

**Clarification of an answer at the 2015-16 Additional Estimates Hearing  
on 11 February 2016.**

I am writing to correct clarify an answer provided to the Committee during its examination of the Department of Social Services in relation to Outcome 1.

In answering a question from Senator Siewert regarding people that have a partial capacity to work (Page 38, Committee Hansard), I said:

**Ms Halbert:** It was 813,436. Of those, 165,647 were assessed as having a partial capacity to work. They will not all be people with a disability, though. They may be people with temporary partial capacity to work et cetera or parents who have reduced capacity to look for work. Within that, I think we can get a breakdown. We will see what we can get you as quickly as we can on those who actually are people who have claimed DSP previously.

However, I wish to clarify that the 165,647 figure refers only to those assessed as having a partial capacity to work as per the definition in the legislation (a person with a physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment that prevents them from working at least 30 hours per week at the relevant minimum wage or above, independently of a programme of support, within the next 2 years). As I indicated in my answer, there are other cohorts, such as parents or those with a temporary reduced work capacity, who may have reduced participation obligations in recognition of the impact of their circumstances on their ability or availability to look for work.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink.

Cath Halbert  
Group Manager  
Payments Policy Group

10 March 2016