

## **Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES – 5-6 JUNE 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

#### **Department of Human Services**

**Topic:** Budget Measure ‘DSP – review recipients aged under 35 years’

**Question reference number:** HS 177

**Senator:** Cameron

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 25 July 2014

**Number of pages:** 2

#### **Question:**

- a) Did DHS provide any advice to DSS or a central agency in the preparation of this measure regarding the extent or limits of its current powers to do medical reviews on DSP recipients?
- b) Does the Department consider that there is a crisis associated with the number of people and expenditure on the DSP?
- c) All the evidence suggest the number of people on the DSP as a proportion of the working age population more broadly has remained steady over a long period of time. Please provide estimates of trends in recipients of DSP from 1990 to the present year:
  - i) As a proportion of working age population.
  - ii) As a proportion of the working age population, adjusted for population ageing over this period.

#### **Answer:**

- a) No.
- b) The number of people and expenditure on DSP is a matter for the Department of Social Services.
- c)
  - i) The table below shows DSP recipients as a proportion of the total Australian working age population from 1990-91 to 2012-13. This data has been provided by the Department of Social Services.
  - ii) Data on the proportion of the working age population, adjusted for population ageing over this period, will be provided by the Department of Social Services in its response to Question 509 addressed to that department.

<b>Year</b>	<b>DSP recipients as a proportion of the total Australian working age population</b>
1990-91	2.9%
1991-92	3.2%
1992-93	3.4%
1993-94	3.7%
1994-95	3.8%
1995-96	4.1%
1996-97	4.3%
1997-98	4.4%
1998-99	4.6%
1999-00	4.7%
2000-01	4.8%
2001-02	5.0%
2002-03	5.0%
2003-04	5.2%
2004-05	5.2%
2005-06	5.1%
2006-07	5.0%
2007-08	5.0%
2008-09	5.1%
2009-10	5.2%
2010-11	5.3%
2011-12	5.3%
2012-13	5.1%