

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 3 JUNE 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Disability Support Pension – Participation Plans

Question reference number: HS 65

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written

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Number of pages: 4

Question:

- a) Since 1 July 2014, how many DSP recipients have developed a compulsory Participation Plan as a result of this measure?
- b) Provide a breakdown of the primary medical condition of DSP recipients undertaking compulsory activities?
- c) In addition, can you identify the number of people undertaking each of the following activities?
 - Work for the Dole
 - Job Search
 - Work Experience
 - Education and Training
 - Engagement with Disability Employment Services.
- d) Are there any other approved activities that have been included under Participation Plan?
- e) Have any DSP recipients with compulsory participation plans failed to meet their compulsory requirements as specified under this measure?
 - i) What were the reasons for these people not meeting their requirements? Have these people incurred penalties and if so what were they?
 - ii) How many people have had their payments suspended? How many people have had their payments cancelled since the measure commenced?
 - iii) What percentage of those reviewed have had their payment cancelled?
 - iv) Provide a breakdown of the main medical conditions of those who have had their payments cancelled under this measure.
 - v) For those whose payments were cancelled under this measure, what payments were they moved to?
 - vi) What savings have been made as a result of the cancellation of these payments going forward? How are the savings calculated?
- f) Have any DSP recipients who have commenced a compulsory participation plan since the measure was introduced in July 2014 secured paid employment?
 - i) How many people have secured paid employment?

- ii) Can you provide details of the type of employment secured and the duration of this employment?

Answer:

- a) From the date of implementation of the 2014 Budget measure on 1 July 2014 to 31 May 2015, there have been 23,126 recipients aged under 35 who have agreed a Disability Support Pension (DSP) Participation Plan.
- b) There are 215 primary medical conditions for DSP recipients undertaking compulsory activities. The table below lists those primary conditions attracting more than 100 recipients with compulsory activities. This represents 19,179 recipients.

Primary Medical Conditions	Number of Recipients
Other Psychiatric Condition	2,366
Schizophrenia	2,110
Asperger's Syndrome	1,840
Intellectual Disabilities	1,279
Autism	1,270
Depression	1,163
Bi Polar Affective Disorder (Manic Depression)	986
Learning Disability	965
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	744
Intellectual Disability	720
Anxiety	519
Other Spinal Disorder	412
Traumatic Brain Injury	407
Cerebral Palsy	395
Chronic Fatigue Syndrome	304
Personality Disorder	285
Intellectual Disability - Conversion	271
Other Musculo-Skeletal and Connective Tissue Disorders	270
Other Congenital Abnormalities	268
Lower Limb Disorder	235
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder	201
Complete Hearing Loss	198
Grand Mal Seizure (Tonic - Clonic)	190
Drug Dependence	171
Psychotic	167
Spina Bifida	159
Partial Hearing Loss	153
Obsessive Compulsive Disorder	148
Other Nervous System	143
Chronic Pain	141
Other Circulatory (e.g. Vasculitis)	125
Crohn's Disease	124
Cystic Fibrosis	117

Shoulder and Upper Arm Disorder	115
Insulin Dependent	114
Anorexia Nervosa	104
TOTAL	19,179

- c) As of 31 May 2015, there were 12,433 recipients with an Employment Services activity in their DSP Participation Plan. The department is not able to provide a further breakdown of this data. The data on activity type can only be sourced by extracting and analysing each individual customer record. This information has not been provided due to the resources required to complete this work.
- d) The following approved activities can be included as the required compulsory activity in a DSP Participation Plan:
- education and training;
 - employment;
 - connection with an employment service provider;
 - approved study designed to increase, vocational skills (part-time or full-time); or
 - apprenticeship/traineeship.
- e) Yes, there are DSP recipients with compulsory participation plans who have failed to meet their compulsory requirements as specified under this measure.
- i) DSP recipients are considered to have failed to comply with compulsory participation requirements if they:
- fail to attend a DSP participation interview with the Department of Human Services or with an employment services provider;
 - fail to sign or negotiate a DSP Participation Plan or Job Plan with an employment services provider; or
 - fail to participate in activities outlined in the DSP Participation Plan or Job Plan with an employment services provider.

The DSP compliance model is based on 3 instances of non-compliance applied within a 12 month period. DSP recipients are given a 21 day warning period to comply prior to any suspension or cancellation of their pension:

- 1) The first instance of non-compliance results in the suspension of DSP. Payment is suspended and then restored with full arrears paid when the recipient's re-engagement in the activity is confirmed.
 - 2) If the second instance of non-compliance occurs within 12 months of the first instance of non-compliance payment is suspended and restored when the recipient's re-engagement in the activity is confirmed. No arrears are paid.
 - 3) If the third instance of non-compliance occurs within 12 months of the first instance of non-compliance, DSP is cancelled and payment cannot be restored. The recipient may submit a new claim for DSP and assessment will be against current eligibility criteria.
- ii) From 1 July 2014 to 31 May 2015, there were 2,547 recipients whose DSP was suspended for the reasons noted above. In the same period there were 44 recipients who had their DSP cancelled after the third instance of non-compliance in a 12 month period.

Reason For Suspension	Number of Recipients
Failed To Attend Interview	2,384
Failed to Sign or Negotiate Participation Plan	94
Failed to Participate in Compulsory Activity	69
Total	2,547

Reason For Cancellation	Number of Recipients
Failed To Attend Interview	41
Failed to Sign or Negotiate Participation Plan	3
Failed to Participate in Compulsory Activity	0
Total	44

- iii) As at 31 May 2015, there were 23,126 DSP recipients who have agreed to a DSP Participation Plan and 44 recipients who were cancelled as a result of non-compliance. This represents 0.19 per cent of the recipients who agreed to a DSP Participation Plan.
- iv) The following table provides a breakdown of the main medical conditions of those people who have had their payments cancelled under this measure since 1 July 2014.

Medical Condition	Number of Recipients Cancelled
Intellectual disability	6
Psychol/psychiatric disorder - other	4
Attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder	3
Depression	3
Asperger's disorder	3
Brain injury - traumatic	3
Post-traumatic stress disorder	3
Schizophrenia	2
Anxiety	2
Bi polar affective (manic depression)	2
Lower limb deficiencies	2
Autistic disorder	1
Brain injury - toxic (e.g. alcohol)	1
Congenital abnormality - other	1
Cystic fibrosis	1
Epilepsy - grand mal (tonic-clonic)	1
Fibromyalgia	1
Hearing loss - complete	1
Learning disability	1
Musculo-skeletal disorder - other	1
Personality disorder	1
Spina bifida	1
	44

- v) The data on payment outcome can only be sourced by extracting and analysing each individual customer record. This information has not been provided due to the resources required to complete this work.
- vi) Questions related to savings from the measure should be directed to the Department of Social Services.
- f) The Department of Human Services does not collect this data.
- i) The Department of Human Services does not collect this data.
- ii) The Department of Human Services does not collect this data.