

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 3 JUNE 2015 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Disability Support Pension – Medical Reviews for People Under 35

Question reference number: HS 66

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 24 July 2015

Number of pages: 3

Question:

- a) Since July 1 2014, how many DSP recipients have had their eligibility reviewed under this measure? Provide a profile of those reviewed under this measure by: age; gender; state and territory; with/without earnings; location (e.g. remote, capital cities, regional; marital status; receiving Rent Assistance; home-owners.
- b) Can you tell me the cost to the Department to complete these reviews?
- c) Is the Department continuing to undertake these reviews and if so how long is it going to take until completed?
- d) Can you tell me the primary medical condition on those people who have been reviewed?
- e) How many people, after review, have been found eligible and continued to receive DSP?
- f) How many people have been found ineligible for DSP?
- g) Can you provide a breakdown of the age and primary disability of recipients who have been found ineligible, and the reason given for the cancellation of their DSP?
- h) How many people who have had their DSP cancelled under this new measure have appealed the cancellation of their payment? Provide details of review outcomes by level of appeal.
- i) Provide data on DSP cancellations under this measure by age; state; and Indigenous/non-Indigenous status.
- j) How many people found ineligible for DSP after review are now accessing alternative social security payments? Please advise the alternative payments that they are now receiving.
- k) How many people are not receiving any income support payments?
- l) Can you identify the job search activities those people with disability who have lost their DSP are now undertaking as part of the working age payment requirements?
- m) How many people who have lost their DSP since July 1, 2014 under this measure have found employment?
- n) Can you provide details of the type of employment secured and the duration of this employment?

Answer:

- a) See answer HS 49(a).
- b) See answer HS 49(b).
- c) The department is continuing to undertake medical reviews for this recipient group and is expected to have them completed by 31 December 2015.
- d) See answer HS 49(a).
- e) As of 19 June 2015, there were 8,013 recipients found to be still eligible for Disability Support Pension (DSP) following a review.
- f) See answer HS 49(d).
- g) Of the 1,082 recipients who were found to be ineligible for DSP, 616 recipients had their payment cancelled as at 19 June 2015. The remaining 466 recipients have payments continuing either because the recipient is in the six week grace period provided for those people whose payment is cancelled following a medical review, or because the recipient is eligible for Payment Pending Review while an appeal of the decision is in progress.

The following tables provide a breakdown by age, primary medical condition and reason for the 616 DSP recipients who had their payment cancelled as at 19 June 2015.

Breakdown by Age as at 1 July 2014

Age	Number of Cancellations	Age	Number of Cancellations	Age	Number of Cancellations
18	18	24	11	30	9
19	69	25	8	31	10
20	60	26	4	32	72
21	8	27	7	33	108
22	13	28	14	34	189
23	9	29	7	Total	616

Primary Medical Condition

There were 93 different Primary Medical conditions reported for the 616 recipients whose DSP was cancelled. The following table provides the 10 primary medical conditions with the highest number of DSP recipients being cancelled.

Primary Medical Condition	Number of Recipients
Other Psychiatric Condition	84
Other Spinal Disorder	57
Intellectual/Learning Disabilities	33
Asperger's Syndrome	33
Schizophrenia	28
Bi Polar Affective Disorder (Manic Depression)	23
Depression	21
Autism	16
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	15
Anxiety	14
Total	324

Reason for cancellation

Reason for Cancellation	Number of Recipients
Disability is short-term	93
Failed to undergo a job capacity assessment	1
Less than 20 points Impairment Rating	519
Work capacity of 15+ hours per week	3
Total	616

- h) See answer HS 49(f).
- i) See answer HS 49(g).
- j) See answer HS 49(h).
- k) See answer HS 49(i).
- l) 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.
- m) See answer HS 49(k).
- n) See answer HS 49(l).