

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2015-16 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 1.6 Income Support for Seniors

Question No: SQ15-000767

Topic: Age Pension

Hansard page: CA98, 4 June 2015

Senator Moore, Claire asked:

Is there any way that figure can be obtained on the number of people who switched from the asset test to the income test as a result of this measure or would it be a guesstimate in both cases?

Answer:

Costings for the *Rebalance the Assets Test Parameters* measure were based on comprehensive modelling of the proposed changes, taking actual pensioner circumstances into account, including the relative impact of the income and assets test under the changes.

Of the 166,000 Social Security pensioners who are expected to receive a higher pension under the measure:

- approximately 34% (56,400 pensioners) will switch from being assessed under the assets test to being assessed under the income test.
- approximately 30% (49,800 pensioners) will switch from being assessed under the assets test to being paid at the full rate of pension; and
- approximately 36% (59,800 pensioners) will continue to have their payments assessed under the assets test.