

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES - 18 OCTOBER 2012 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Disability Support Pension

Question reference number: HS 142

Senator: Fifield

Type of question: Written question

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 December 2012

Number of pages: 2

Question:

- a) How many people received, by month, Disability Support Pension in 2011-12 while on a temporary absence from Australia not exceeding 13 weeks?
- b) How many recipients were absent for:
 - 1) One week?
 - 2) Two weeks?
 - 3) One month?
 - 4) Six weeks?
 - 5) Two months?
 - 6) Thirteen weeks?
- c) How many people received, by month, Disability Support Pension between July and October 2012 while on a temporary absence from Australia not exceeding 13 weeks?
- d) How many recipients were absent for:
 - 1) One week?
 - 2) Two weeks?
 - 3) One month?
 - 4) Six weeks?
 - 5) Two months?
 - 6) Thirteen weeks?

Answer:

- a) The Department of Human Services does not maintain figures on overseas absences on a monthly basis. The total number of overseas trips in 2011-12 for customers receiving Disability Support Pension was 76,333. This figure may contain customers who have travelled overseas more than once during the period.

b) The Department does not hold information on the length of absences requested. However, the Department does have the following information on absences in 2011-12:

Length of absence	Number of trips
Up to 2 weeks	26,399
2 – 3 weeks	11,773
3 – 4 weeks	7,742
4 – 8 weeks	16,208
8 – 13 weeks	11,727
13 – 26 weeks	2,285
26 – 52 weeks	191

c) The Department does not maintain figures on overseas absences on a monthly basis. The total number of overseas trips in 2012-13 (1 July 2012 to 10 November 2012) is 25,646. This figure contains customers who have travelled overseas more than once during the period.

d) The Department does not hold information on the length of absences requested. However, the Department does have the following information on absences in the period 1 July 2012 to 10 November 2012:

Length of absence	Number of trips
Up to 2 weeks	9,661
2 – 3 weeks	4,191
3 – 4 weeks	2,717
4 – 8 weeks	5,666
8 – 13 weeks	3,075
13 – 26 weeks	331