

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