

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 224

Topic: DSP Eligibility

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

"For the periods 1 October 2011 - 30 September 2012, by State, Gender and Indigenous/Non-Indigenous Status:

- How many medical reviews have been undertaken? Of these, how many resulted in cancellations?
- How many new claims lodged? Of these, how many were rejected?
- How many appeals were lodged at each level of appeal (related to medical qualification)? What is the outcome of the appeals?"

Answer:

DSP Reviews

In the period 1 October 2011 to 30 September 2012, 8,683 Disability Support Pension (DSP) recipients were subject to a medical review. Of these, 203 resulted in cancellation.

Although these are medical reviews, cancellation can occur for both medical and non-medical reasons.

The following table shows the breakdown of cancellations by state, gender and indigenous/non-indigenous status.

Medical reviews completed in the period 1 October 2011 to 30 September 2012

Australian Capital Territory (ACT)						
Outcome	Gender		Indigenous			Total
	F	M	Not Identified	Y	N	
CAN: Cancelled	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Total	46	39	<20	<20	74	85
New South Wales (NSW)						
Outcome	Gender		Indigenous			Total
	F	M	Not Identified	Y	N	
CAN: Cancelled	NA	<20	<20	<20	41	44
Total	1243	1340	162	100	2321	2583

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Northern Territory (NT)						
Outcome	Gender		Indigenous			Total
	F	M	Not Identified	Y	N	
CAN: Cancelled	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Total	32	28	<20	40	<20	60
Queensland (QLD)						
Outcome	Gender		Indigenous			Total
	F	M	Not Identified	Y	N	
CAN: Cancelled	29	24	<20	<20	48	53
Total	860	968	113	92	1623	1828
South Australia (SA)						
Outcome	Gender		Indigenous			Total
	F	M	Not Identified	Y	N	
CAN: Cancelled	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Total	455	431	41	20	825	886
Tasmania (TAS)						
Outcome	Gender		Indigenous			Total
	F	M	Not Identified	Y	N	
CAN: Cancelled	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Total	272	278	48	40	462	550
Victoria (VIC)						
Outcome	Gender		Indigenous			Total
	F	M	Not Identified	Y	N	
CAN: Cancelled	<20	NA	<20	<20	35	39
Total	925	837	151	24	1587	1762
Western Australia (WA)						
Outcome	Gender		Indigenous			Total
	F	M	Not Identified	Y	N	
CAN: Cancelled	NA	<20	<20	<20	28	35
Total	467	407	56	54	764	874
No State Recorded						
Outcome	Gender		Indigenous			Total
	F	M	Not Identified	Y	N	
CAN: Cancelled	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Total	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Total						
Outcome	Gender		Indigenous			Total
	F	M	Not Identified	Y	N	
CAN: Cancelled	103	100	<20	<20	180	203
Total	4301	4337	580	375	7683	8638

To protect individuals privacy, cell sizes of less than 20 are represented as <20.

NA = not available for confidential reasons

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DSP Claims

During the period 24 September 2011 to 21 September 2012, 131,443 claims were finalised and of these 72,117 resulted in rejection and 59,326 resulted in a DSP grant.

The following table provides a breakdown of DSP claims, rejections and grants by state, gender and Indigenous/Non-Indigenous status.

DSP Claims for period 24 September 2011 to 21 September 2012												
Granted												
Female/Unknown				Male				Total				
Ind#	N-Ind##	Unk* *	Total	Ind#	N-Ind##	Unk**	Total	Ind#	N-Ind##	Unk**	Total	
ACT	<20	324	NA	376	NA	303	NA	370	NA	627	NA	746
NSW	563	7,715	806	9,084	761	8,817	1,133	10,711	1,324	16,532	1,939	19,795
NT	158	NA	<20	252	156	NA	<20	301	314	NA	NA	553
QLD	427	5,067	504	5,998	501	5,710	665	6,876	928	10,777	1,169	12,874
SA	85	1,682	187	1,954	94	1,905	261	2,260	179	3,587	448	4,214
TAS	43	696	103	842	54	732	150	936	97	1,428	253	1,778
VIC	129	6,325	607	7,061	181	6,873	834	7,888	310	13,198	1,441	14,949
WA	167	1,651	189	2,007	197	1,750	284	2,231	364	3,401	473	4,238
IOB/UNK*	<20	78	<20	84	<20	86	<20	95	<20	164	<20	179
Total	1,592	23,616	2,450	27,658	1,971	26,303	3,394	31,668	3,563	49,919	5,844	59,326

Rejected												
Female/Unknown				Male				Total				
Ind#	N-Ind##	Unk* *	Total	Ind#	N-Ind##	Unk**	Total	Ind#	N-Ind##	Unk**	Total	
ACT	<20	183	NA	217	<20	142	<20	174	NA	325	NA	391
NSW	786	10,467	858	12,111	818	10,891	1,109	12,818	1,604	21,358	1,967	24,929
NT	48	NA	<20	396	250	195	37	482	498	327	53	878
QLD	706	6,122	538	7,366	733	6,733	709	8,175	1,439	12,855	1,247	15,541
SA	156	2,523	206	2,885	152	2,784	313	3,249	308	5,307	519	6,134
TAS	64	793	95	952	67	768	123	958	131	1,561	218	1,910
VIC	177	7,658	657	8,492	161	7,359	834	8,354	338	15,017	1,491	16,846
WA	333	2,116	220	2,669	327	1,995	258	2,580	660	4,111	478	5,249
IOB/UNK*	<20	NA	<20	87	<20	133	<20	152	<20	208	NA	239
Total	2,485	30,069	2,621	35,175	2,528	31,000	3,414	36,942	5,013	61,069	6,035	72,117

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	Finalised Claims											
	Female/Unknown				Male				Total			
	Ind#	N-Ind##	Unk* *	Total	Ind#	N-Ind##	Unk**	Total	Ind#	N-Ind##	Unk**	Total
ACT	NA	507	NA	593	NA	445	NA	544	NA	952	NA	1,137
NSW	1,349	18,182	1,664	21,195	1,579	19,708	2,242	23,529	2,928	37,890	3,906	44,724
NT	406	NA	NA	648	406	322	55	783	812	532	87	1,431
QLD	1,133	11,189	1,042	13,364	1,234	12,443	1,374	15,051	2,367	23,632	2,416	28,415
SA	241	4,205	393	4,839	246	4,689	574	5,509	487	8,894	967	10,348
TAS	107	1,489	198	1,794	121	1,500	273	1,894	228	2,989	471	3,688
VIC	306	13,983	1,264	15,553	342	14,232	1,668	16,242	648	28,215	2,932	31,795
WA	500	3,767	409	4,676	524	3,745	542	4,811	1,024	7,512	951	9,487
IOB/UNK*	<20	153	<20	171	<20	219	NA	247	<20	372	NA	418
Total	4,077	53,685	5,071	62,833	4,499	57,303	6,808	68,610	8,576	110,988	11,879	131,443

*IOB= International Operations Branch and UNK = Unknown. This means place of residence is overseas or unknown.

**Indigenous/Non_Indigenous status is unknown

#Ind = Indigenous

##N-Ind = Non-Indigenous

NA = not available for confidential reasons.

To protect individuals privacy, cell sizes of less than 20 are represented as <20.

The data is based on the period 24 September 2011 to 21 September 2012, as the source data is only available in four weekly periods rather than monthly data as used in other responses.

Due to the detail required to answer this question, DSP claims data has been extracted from a different source to Question on Notice – ES12-000223.

DSP Appeals

During the period 1 October 2011 to 30 September 2012 there were 19,022 appeals received relating to medical qualification and 17,719 appeals decided.

Of the decided appeals, the decision was affirmed in 12,139 cases, set aside in 4,525 cases and the appeal was withdrawn/dismissed in 1,055 cases.

The following table shows the breakdown of appeals received and appeals decided during the period at each level of appeal by state, gender and indigenous/non-indigenous status.

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Appeals Received and Decided for the period 1 October 2011 to 30 September 2012

	Appeals Received								Appeals Decided											
	Gender				Indigenous				Gender				Indigenous				Appeal Outcome			
Australian Capital Territory (ACT)																				
	M	F	UKN	Total	Y	N	UKN	Total	M	F	UKN	Total	Y	N	UNK	Total	Aff-irmed	Set aside**	With-drawn /Dismiss	Total
Review Officers*	NA	26	<20	55	<20	46	<20	55	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
ODM	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
ARO	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
SSAT	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
AAT customer	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
AAT Secretary	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Total	29	NA	<20	57	<20	48	<20	57	23	27	<20	50	<20	38	<20	50	31	<20	<20	50

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	Appeals Received								Appeals Decided											
	Gender			Indigenous					Gender				Indigenous				Appeal Outcome			
New South Wales (NSW)																				
	M	F	UKN	Total	Y	N	UKN	Total	M	F	UKN	Total	Y	N	UNK	Total	Aff-irmed	Set aside**	With-drawn /Dismiss	Total
Review Officers*	2961	NA	<20	5747	268	5127	352	5747	586	NA	<20	1140	58	1018	64	1140	660	391	89	1140
ODM	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	887	NA	<20	1625	73	1458	94	1625	1321	215	89	1625
ARO	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	1339	NA	<20	2575	118	2296	161	2575	1751	728	96	2575
SSAT	496	NA	<20	898	35	820	43	898	439	NA	<20	796	30	728	38	796	619	NA	NA	796
AAT customer	119	NA	<20	193	<20	182	<20	193	NA	NA	<20	NA	<20	NA	<20	NA	<20	NA	85	NA
AAT Secretary	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Total	3578	NA	<20	6843	306	6131	406	6843	3353	2957	<20	6310	282	5664	364	6310	4370	1523	417	6310

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	Appeals Received								Appeals Decided											
	Gender			Indigenous					Gender				Indigenous				Appeal Outcome			
Northern Territory (NT)																				
	M	F	UNK	Total	Y	N	UNK	Total	M	F	UNK	Total	Y	N	UNK	Total	Aff- irmed	Set aside **	With- drawn /Dismiss	Total
Review Officers*	72	NA	<20	119	57	NA	<20	119	<20	<20	<20	24	<20	<20	<20	24	<20	<20	<20	24
ODM	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	26	NA	<20	50	28	NA	<20	50	38	<20	<20	50
ARO	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	24	<20	<20	40	<20	20	<20	40	25	<20	<20	40
SSAT	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
AAT customer	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
AAT Secretary	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Total	77	NA	<20	130	59	NA	<20	130	71	NA	<20	120	NA	58	<20	120	73	42	5	120

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	Appeals Received								Appeals Decided											
	Gender			Indigenous					Gender				Indigenous				Appeal Outcome			
Queensland (QLD)																				
	M	F	UKN	Total	Y	N	UKN	Total	M	F	UKN	Total	Y	N	UNK	Total	Aff-irmed	Set aside**	With-drawn /Dismiss	Total
Review Officers*	1772	NA	<20	3334	230	2901	203	3334	349	NA	<20	652	42	573	37	652	374	230	48	652
ODM	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	619	NA	<20	1195	77	1049	69	1195	961	205	29	1195
ARO	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	777	NA	<20	1428	86	1245	97	1428	958	415	55	1428
SSAT	272	NA	<20	457	25	396	36	457	191	NA	<20	310	<20	277	<20	310	219	54	37	310
AAT customer	45	NA	<20	72	<20	65	<20	72	30	NA	<20	NA	<20	NA	<20	51	<20	<20	<20	51
AAT Secretary	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Total	2089	NA	<20	3863	258	3362	243	3863	1966	NA	<20	3636	220	3193	223	3636	2530	922	184	3636

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	Appeals Received								Appeals Decided											
	Gender			Indigenous					Gender				Indigenous				Appeal Outcome			
South Australia (SA)																				
	M	F	UKN	Total	Y	N	UKN	Total	M	F	UKN	Total	Y	N	UNK	Total	Aff- irmed	Set aside **	With- drawn /Dismiss	Total
Review Officers*	804	NA	<20	1487	42	1347	98	1487	149	NA	<20	282	<20	254	NA	282	176	NA	<20	282
ODM	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	146	NA	<20	277	<20	246	NA	277	221	30	26	277
ARO	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	471	NA	<20	870	21	802	47	870	558	267	45	870
SSAT	183	NA	<20	285	<20	268	<20	285	167	NA	<20	262	<20	245	<20	262	145	NA	<20	262
AAT customer	40	<20	<20	57	<20	49	<20	57	NA	<20	<20	NA	<20	NA	<20	NA	<20	<20	<20	NA
AAT Secretary	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Total	1031	NA	<20	1837	48	1671	118	1837	955	774	<20	1729	44	1583	102	1729	1105	500	124	1729

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	Appeals Received								Appeals Decided											
	Gender				Indigenous				Gender				Indigenous				Appeal Outcome			
Tasmania (TAS)																				
	M	F	UKN	Total	Y	N	UKN	Total	M	F	UKN	Total	Y	N	UNK	Total	Aff-irmed	Set aside**	With-drawn /Dismiss	Total
Review Officers*	207	NA	<20	398	26	329	43	398	45	NA	<20	82	<20	69	<20	82	41	NA	<20	82
ODM	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	60	NA	<20	116	<20	100	<20	116	87	NA	<20	116
ARO	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	91	NA	<20	182	<20	152	<20	182	115	NA	<20	182
SSAT	NA	27	<20	53	<20	48	<20	53	27	NA	<20	48	<20	43	<20	48	42	<20	<20	48
AAT customer	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
AAT Secretary	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Total	236	NA	<20	457	28	383	46	457	228	NA	<20	441	29	375	37	441	288	124	29	441

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	Gender			Indigenous					Gender				Indigenous				Appeal Outcome			
Victoria (VIC)																				
	M	F	UKN	Total	Y	N	UKN	Total	M	F	UKN	Total	Y	N	UNK	Total	Aff- irmed	Set aside **	With- drawn /Dismiss	Total
Review Officers*	1994	NA	<20	3972	63	3609	300	3972	NA	367	<20	708	<20	649	NA	708	382	255	71	708
ODM	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	NA	682	<20	1338	27	1206	105	1338	1086	217	35	1338
ARO	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	851	NA	<20	1625	<20	1484	NA	1625	1028	532	65	1625
SSAT	279	NA	<20	512	<20	464	NA	512	264	NA	<20	476	<20	429	NA	476	396	51	29	476
AAT customer	63	NA	<20	114	<20	98	<20	114	NA	NA	<20	NA	<20	NA	<20	NA	<20	NA	NA	NA
AAT Secretary	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Total	2336	NA	<20	4599	71	4172	356	4599	2168	NA	<20	4226	60	3839	327	4226	2909	1088	229	4226

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	Gender			Indigenous					Gender				Indigenous			Appeal Outcome				
Western Australia (WA)																				
	M	F	UKN	Total	Y	N	UKN	Total	M	F	UKN	Total	Y	N	UNK	Total	Aff- irmed	Set aside **	With- drawn /Dismiss	Total
Review Officers*	NA	521	<20	1034	89	863	82	1034	NA	101	<20	195	<20	173	<20	195	108	NA	<20	195
ODM	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	198	NA	<20	358	43	283	32	358	282	NA	<20	358
ARO	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	238	NA	<20	471	35	403	33	471	306	135	30	471
SSAT	70	NA	<20	139	<20	124	<20	139	65	NA	<20	118	<20	102	<20	118	94	<20	<20	118
AAT customer	<20	<20	<20	21	<20	<20	<20	21	<20	<20	<20	NA	<20	<20	<20	NA	<20	<20	<20	NA
AAT Secretary	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Total	NA	598	<20	1194	99	1005	90	1194	605	NA	<20	1163	97	980	86	1163	799	301	63	1163

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	Appeals Received								Appeals Decided											
	Gender				Indigenous				Gender				Indigenous				Appeal Outcome			
No State Recorded																				
	M	F	UKN	Total	Y	N	UKN	Total	M	F	UKN	Total	Y	N	UNK	Total	Aff- irmed	Set aside **	With- drawn /Dismiss	Total
Review Officers*	25	<20	<20	32	<20	30	<20	32	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
ODM	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
ARO	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
SSAT	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
AAT customer	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
AAT Secretary	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Total	32	<20	<20	42	<20	40	<20	42	35	<20	<20	44	<20	43	<20	44	34	<20	<20	44

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INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2012-13 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

	Appeals Received								Appeals Decided											
	Gender			Indigenous					Gender				Indigenous			Appeal Outcome				
Total																				
	M	F	UKN	Total	Y	N	UKN	Total	M	F	UKN	Total	Y	N	UNK	Total	Aff- irmed	Set aside **	With- drawn /Dismiss	Total
Review Officers*	8377	NA	<20	16178	780	1430 7	1091	16178	1587	NA	<20	3097	147	2761	189	3097	1756	1088	253	3097
ODM	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	2612	NA	<20	4991	269	4388	334	4991	4021	777	193	4991
ARO	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	3816	NA	<20	7228	307	6434	487	7228	4767	2160	301	7228
SSAT	1336	NA	<20	2363	84	2137	142	2363	1164	NA	<20	2026	67	1839	120	2026	1524	353	149	2026
AAT customer	285	NA	<20	467	<20	422	NA	467	NA	NA	<20	NA	<20	NA	<20	NA	71	NA	NA	NA
AAT Secretary	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20	<20
Total	1000 4	NA	<20	19022	874	1687 6	1272	19022	9404	NA	<20	17719	796	15773	1150	17719	12139	4525	1055	17719

*Review Officers refers to Original Decision Makers (ODM), Subject Matter Experts (SME) and Authorised Review Officers (ARO).

During the period 12 March 2012 and 30 April 2012, DHS implemented changes to its internal review arrangements and reporting processes. During this time ODM and ARO reviews were replaced by reviews by a "Review Officer", which are a combination of SME reviews and ARO reviews.

Prior to the changes, ODM and ARO outcomes were reported separately. However, affirmation rates (where the DHS decision remains in place) in "Review Officer" data are much lower than previously reported for ARO decisions. This is because SMEs cannot affirm or vary decisions.

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**The set aside outcome includes settled/decision by consent, set aside and varied.

There were nil appeals received or decided at the Federal Court level, during this period.

To protect individuals' privacy, cell sizes of less than 20 are represented as <20.

NA = not available for confidential reasons.

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The number of appeals decided does not correlate to the number received because of the delay between lodgement and finalisation of appeal, for example appeals that were lodged prior to 1 October 2011 may have been decided in the period 1 October 2011 to 30 September 2012.

Changes to DHS internal review arrangements and reporting processes made during the period 12 March 2012 and 30 April 2012 mean it is difficult to compare the number of reviews undertaken at each level of appeal, to earlier periods.