

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2013-14 Supplementary Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** 4

**Question No:** 299

**Topic:** Income support for Seniors

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Moore** asked:

Is any work being undertaken by the department to examine options for reducing the future costs associated with the Wife Pension? If so, what work is being undertaken? Have staff been allocated? How many?

**Answer:**

As part of its ongoing policy work for government, the Department works on options around pension settings, some of which involve savings to budgets and some of which do not.

This is core business for the Department and is supported by evidence-based policy analysis and advice.

Wife Pension is a closed payment. There have been no new grants since 1 July 1995.