

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2014-15 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: SSAT - Social Security Appeals Tribunal

Question No: 472

Topic: Appeals

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

How many tribunal members have expertise in dealing with people with a mental illness?
How many appeals would they consider in a 12 month period?

Answer:

Each year, the SSAT publishes a list of its members and their professional qualifications as Appendix 1 to its Annual Report. From this Appendix, the number of members with qualifications in medicine, psychology and social work can be ascertained. A number of SSAT members without these qualifications are current or former members of State mental health review tribunals. In addition, some members have availed of training offered by the SSAT in understanding mental illness and communicating with persons with a mental illness.

The SSAT is unable to answer the second question because, although the SSAT makes decisions as to whether a person has “a physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment” for the purpose of the qualifications for disability support pension, the SSAT does not collect this “sensitive information” (within the meaning of the *Privacy Act 1988*) from its reasons for decision.