

Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES – 29 MAY 2008



Human Services Portfolio

Department/Agency: Centrelink
Outcome/Output Group: Outcome 1, Output 1.1
Topic: Centrelink – Disability Support Pension Reviews

Senator: Coonan

Question reference number: HS17

Type of question: Hansard F&PA 72

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2008

Question:

HS17: Senator COONAN—The budget forecasts a \$562 million increase in the cost of disability support pension as a result of fewer than expected people transitioning from DSP to New Start. What are the actual figures for the number of job seekers who have transitioned?

Ms Drayton—Can I clarify exactly what it is? It is quite confusing with disability support pension. You are after the number of people who were on DSP who have transitioned across to New Start?

Senator COONAN—Yes, to New Start.

Ms Drayton—They are reviews that are ongoing at the moment. Centrelink has completed 15,679 of those reviews. I do not have the figure as to who transferred to what, but I do have a figure of 5.8 per cent, 916 people were cancelled off DSP as a result of those reviews. So I will need to take that on notice to provide you with the actual outcome.

Senator COONAN—I am interested in why there appears to be a fairly sizeable discrepancy between the forecast and the figures.

Ms Drayton—I might be able to get back to you soon about that in relation to the numbers who transitioned. I just do not have that information yet.

Answer:

HS17: For the period 1 July 2007 to 31 May 2008, 22,976 medical transition reviews were completed for customers granted Disability Support Pension between 11 May 2005 and 30 June 2006.

Of the 22,976 completed reviews, 490 have resulted in transfers to Newstart Allowance and 19 customers lodged a claim for Newstart Allowance.

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