SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Inquiry into the Employment and Workplace Relations Legislation Amendment (Welfare to Work and other Measures) Bill 2005 and the Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare to Work) Bill 2005.

23 NOVEMBER

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question:

Where in the legislation does it say after two years of not being able to access training does a person revert automatically to DSP?

Answer:

Section 94A "Qualification for disability support pension-person transferring to that pension" is the relevant section in the Employment and Workplace Relations Legislation Amendment (Welfare to Work and other Measures) Bill 2005 and the Family and Community Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare to Work) Bill 2005.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question:

Uniting Care Australia in their submission referred to 85% of people being worse off as a result of the package. Is this figure correct

Answer:

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) estimates that in 2008-09, of all new claimant single parents of children aged 6 to 15 who would have previously claimed PPS, approximately 27.2 % will be on the same rate of income support (72.8% will not receive the income support payment that they would have if they were still able to claim PPS).

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question:

How many mature age people are in receipt Newstart Allowance?

Answer:

As at 16 September 2005, there were 110,469 recipients of Newstart Allowance aged 50 years and over. That is out of a total of 523,707 Newstart recipients, as shown on page 4 of the DEWR Submission.