Disability Support Pension (DSP) June 2015

About Disability Support Pension

Disability Support Pension (DSP) is an income support payment for people who are unable to work for 15 hours or more per week at or above the relevant minimum wage, independent of a Program of Support due to permanent physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment. A DSP claimant must be aged 16 years or over and under Age Pension age at date of claim, however once in receipt of DSP, a person can continue to receive DSP beyond Age Pension age.

Measures improving the quality of assessments for DSP have been effective in reducing the growth in the DSP population and recently the population has started to decline. As at the end of June 2015, there were 814,391 people receiving DSP, down from 830,454 in June 2014.

Expenditure on DSP has increased over time due to increases in recipient numbers and to the rate of payment. The 2015-16 DSP budget as per the Portfolio Additional Estimates is $16.907 billion. In June 2015, expenditure on DSP was 1.1% of Gross Domestic Product (ABS National Accounts) compared to 1% in June 2014.

In June 2015, 630,702 (77.4%) DSP recipients were born in Australia. This proportion has increased slightly since June 2011, when 75.2% of DSP recipients were born in Australia.

In June 2015, 814,391 (99.4%) DSP recipients identified as indigenous. The number of DSP recipients identifying as indigenous increased from 42,608 in June 2011 to 48,154 in June 2015, however the indigenous proportion of the total DSP population has remained relatively steady at between 5% and 6%.

In June 2015, 245,951 (26.5%) DSP recipients were homeowners. This proportion was 22.1% in June 2011, when 21.0% of DSP recipients were homeowners.

In June 2015, 602,514 DSP recipients were not partnered. This proportion has risen slightly over time from 59.5% in June 2011 to 74.6% in June 2015.

There were 814,391 people receiving DSP on 30 June 2015. Looking back 12 months to 30 June 2014, 776,124 (95.3%) of these people were also receiving DSP at that time. Of the people who were not receiving DSP at June 2014, 49.8% were not receiving any income support and 39.4% were receiving Newstart Allowance.

In June 2015, 389,441 (43.9%) of DSP recipients were aged 55 and over. This proportion was 33.6% in June 2011. The number of non-recipients aged 55 and over has increased from 20,183 in June 2011 to 41,173 in June 2015.

In June 2015, 16.9% of DSP recipients were female. There are slightly more males (53.1%) than females on DSP (46.9%). The proportion of females is slowly rising following incremental increases in the Age Pension age for women (which is now the same as for men) and the closure of alternative payments such as Wife Pension and Widow B Pension.

In June 2015, 16.9% of DSP recipients were aged under 35 years, while 60.4% were aged between 35 and 54. Recipients aged 55 and over made up 22.7% of the total population. The number of DSP recipients aged 65 and over has increased from 20,183 in June 2011 to 41,173 in June 2015.

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Disability Support Pension Allowance (DSP) June 2015

Quick Facts

- Total Population: 821,318 (Jun-13), 830,454 (Jun-14), 814,391 (Jun-15)
- Male: 446,243 (Jun-13), 441,013 (Jun-14), 421,764 (Jun-15)
- Female: 375,075 (Jun-13), 389,441 (Jun-14), 392,627 (Jun-15)
- Duration: Under 5 years: 305,908 (Jun-13), 283,892 (Jun-14), 241,575 (Jun-15)
- Earnings: Full Earnings: 353,381 (Jun-13), 382,770 (Jun-14), 347,885 (Jun-15)
- Rate: Full rate: 699,223 (Jun-13), 582,093 (Jun-14), 572,120 (Jun-15)
- Part Rate: 152,515 (Jun-13), 148,968 (Jun-14), 142,654 (Jun-15)

Comparison of DSP to Previous Years

- Previous Income Support status of DSP recipients at June 2015
  - Carer Payment: 34.4%
  - Newstart Allowance: 43.8%
  - Youth Allowance (other): 8.6%
  - No income support: 2.0%
  - Other payments: 3.0%

- Subsequent Income Support status of DSP recipients at June 2014
  - Age Pension: 9.9%
  - Carer Payment: 24.5%
  - Newstart Allowance: 12.4%
  - Decreased: 0.9%
  - No income support: 0.8%
  - Other Payments: 0.0%
Data Descriptions

**Disability Support Pension**: Disability Support Pension (DSP) is an income support payment for people who have a permanent physical, intellectual or sensory disability, or a disability that reduces their capacity to work, and under Age Pension age at date of claim, however once in receipt of DSP, a person can continue to receive DSP.

**Recipient Numbers**: Recipients of Disability Support Pension who are paid by DHS.

**Note**: Recipient numbers are point-in-time as at the end of the quarter, using the definition above, these recipients are paid by the Department of Human Services (DHS).

**Report Details**: Payment trends and profiles report - June 2015 - Produced by the Department of Social Services.

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**Source**: Department of Human Services Administrative data (DSS Extracts).

**Data Date**: Data as at the 26th June 2015

**Australian National Accounts**: National Income, Expenditure and Product: Table 34 Time Series Spreadsheet

**Glossary**:

**Duration**: Duration refers to duration on Disability Support Pension.

**Remoteness Area**: Remoteness Areas are based on the recipient's geo-coded address against the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS).

**Rate**: The rate of the recipients payment.

**Indigenous**: Indigenous recipients include only those who have voluntarily identified as indigenous. This definition is consistent with the ABS standard.

**Earnings**: Earnings refers to employment earnings reported in the last fortnight of the reported period. The payment is reduced as earnings increase.

**Previous income support status**: Looks at the income support status of people who were receiving DSP on 26 June 2015.

**Subsequent income support status**: Looks at the income support status of people who were receiving DSP on 26 June 2015.

**Expenditure**: For previous financial years, the data reflects actual expenditure, for future or current financial years, the data reflects the relevant Department of Social Services Portfolio Budget Statement.