



A sustainable disability welfare system

2016 Budget

The future sustainability of our welfare system is being protected through measures that ensure all welfare recipients are receiving the appropriate supports for their situation. It is also a process designed to identify and assist people who have the capacity to work and whose wellbeing would be improved by being in a reasonable level of appropriate employment.

What was announced in the 2016 Budget?

Over the next three years the Department of Human Services will undertake an additional 90,000 medical reviews of Disability Support Pension (DSP) recipients. Of these, 30,000 will also include a Disability Medical Assessment, as part of the overall medical review process.

These reviews are targeted at those DSP recipients who may have some reasonable but limited capacity to work, and will ensure people are on the right support for their situation.

Improving outcomes for people with disability

These reviews will assist people where appropriate to move into study and work, instead of getting stuck in the welfare system.

People who lose their DSP entitlements following a review will be those who do not meet the existing qualification criteria. They will be able to access support to move into paid work or study. There are other ways people can be supported rather than through the DSP, such as through Disability Employment Services, activity-tested payments, and/or assistance to enter or re-enter the workforce and find suitable employment. This enables all people to access the right support for their situation.

Australia's Disability Support

Since its introduction in 1991, the number of recipients receiving the DSP has more than doubled. At its peak, there were over 830 000 people receiving these payments. This number has been decreasing since new, tighter criteria were introduced to improve the assessment process. Of those people receiving DSP payments, over 80 per cent have never been assessed under the latest criteria, introduced in 2012.

People receiving the DSP can be reviewed at any time, which is consistent with all welfare payments.

More information

For more information about this measure and other Department of Social Services' Budget measures, visit the [Department of Social Services](http://www.dss.gov.au) website (www.dss.gov.au).

For information about the 2016 Budget, visit the [Australian Government budget](http://www.budget.gov.au) website (www.budget.gov.au).