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RED TAPE SSRV NEWSLETTER

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The 90,000

One 'Budget' announcement that has been doing the rounds (particularly in the wake of the less than spectacular election result) is that of the 'ninety thousand' (90,000) Disability Support Pension (DSP) recipients who will have their eligibility reviewed.'. A number of our clientele have contacted us about this, hearing reports in the media. We note the number has taken on a specific aura, a bit like 300, the series of films based on the legends around the Battle of Thermopylae in 480 BC. In reality this is a continuance of the re-assessments that have been

- People who have been granted DSP on the basis of mental illness, but not originally assessed by either a *psychiatrist* or a *clinical psychologist* as the current tables require
- People with multiple moderate impairments that each had low-ish scores (e.g. 4 x 5 etc.) on the Impairment Tables. These recipients, under the current table, would have to participate in a *Program of Support (POS)* in order to qualify for DSP
- Those who originally went on DSP under *Table 21* the illness based table that no longer

taking place under the 2011 tables, since they were introduced (in 2012). Up until now (2016) the assessment program was focussed on those who were under thirty-five (35) years of age. We believe that this phase of the program is now somewhat complete.

We note that whilst being announced in the Budget and reported in line with that, , it is not really a Budget measure in a technical sense. There is no requirement for any legislation to pass (for example to contrast it with the changes to superannuation) for this to occur.

Social Security legislation allows medical reviews to be undertaken at regular intervals. Whilst not specifically legislated against, there is an understanding that people will normally not be re-tested in less than a 2 year period.

In reality with the changes to the tables and the under 35s regular reviews of other DSP recipients have not been as regular. Effectively this program may change that.

The new program is for three (3) years and seems to suggest that there will be 30,000 people reviewed in each of these years.

Of those, a third of these (30,000) who are considered to be at 'high risk' (government term) of not meeting the current medical requirements for DSP as it exists now. They will be required to undertake medical reviews. It is presumed (though we are only speculating) that this will require the provision of medical information akin to a DSP application. It is presumed

exists that covered things such as chronic fatigue/MFS and aligned illnesses.

As we have noted previously, the major change to the *Tables* between the 2011 and 2012 versions is the focus on 'function' rather than 'illness'. That is, it's how your illness affects your ability to work, not the fact that you've got the illness itself.

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that the balance will probably only have *Job Capacity Assessments (JCAs)*.

We note that the number is about ten percent (10%) of current DSP recipients. In reality those assessed since 2012 are likely to be fairly safe. The Department of Human Services (which Centrelink is part of) indicates that it will use 'risk profiling' to decide who to test. We are not privy to their profiling, but, based on positions taken by the Department previously towards certain DSP recipient cohorts, we suspect this will particularly affect:

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... read the rest of the article over at [JobVoice](#)



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