

Fact Sheet 3: Disability Support Pension

How many people with intellectual disability receive the disability support pension?

101,631 individuals with intellectual and learning disability are in receipt of the Disability Support Pension (DSP).²⁵ This is 12.4% of the total DSP recipient population.

Table 4: DSP Population 2001 - 2013

Year	Total DSP Population	Intellectual & Learning Disability	% of Total DSP
2001	623,926	63,168	10.1%
2013	821,738	101,631	12.4%

How many disability support pension recipients access open employment services?

There has been a gradual decrease in the number people in receipt of the DSP commencing in open employment services for people who need ongoing support.²⁶

Table 5: Income Support at Commencement in Open Employment (DEN & ESS programs)

	Disability Employment Network			Employment Support Services			
	Dec 08	Jun 09	Feb 10	Nov 11	Nov 12	Nov 13	Nov 14
DSP	40.5%	40.1%	39.4%	38.1%	32.9%	30.4%	29.1%
Newstart	34.4%	37.7%	39.9%	41.6%	45.1%	52.1%	56.0%
Non-Allowee	15.4%	12.9%	12.5%	16.4%	18.6%	16.1%	13.4%
Other	9.7%	9.3%	8.2%	3.9%	3.4%	1.4%	1.5%

How many disability support pension recipients earn income?

In 2013, only 8.3% of DSP recipients reported earned income. Almost half of those earn less than \$125 per week. The number of DSP recipients reporting earned income has gradually decreased over a 13 year period.²⁷

Table 6: Disability Support Pension Fortnightly Earnings

Year	Reported Earnings	Nil Earnings	< \$250	>\$250
2001	9.1%	90.9%	7.1%	2.0%
2013	8.3%	91.7%	3.8%	4.5%

²⁵ Commonwealth DSP data does not separate people with intellectual disability from people with learning disability. Characteristics of Disability Support Pension Recipients. <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/disability-and-carers/publications-articles/policy-research/characteristics-of-disability-support-pension-recipients>

²⁶ DEN historical caseload data and ESS monthly caseload data. <http://lmip.gov.au/default.aspx?LMIP/DisabilityEmploymentServicesData> ; DEN = Disability Employment Network (2006-10); ESS = Employment Support Services (2010 - current).

²⁷ Characteristics of Disability Support Pension Recipients. <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/disability-and-carers/publications-articles/policy-research/characteristics-of-disability-support-pension-recipients>