

# DEFEND THE DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION!!

## END THE WELFARE LIES AND MYTHS!!

**MYTHS:** The number of people on the Disability Support Pension (DSP) is massively rising. It is too easy to receive the payment. People are becoming reliant on the DSP when they could be working.

**FACTS:** As of 2014 there were roughly 830,000 people on DSP, or 5.4 percent of working-age people – down from 5.5 percent three years earlier. This is average for wealthy nations.

Over the past decade, the ratio of people on the DSP has risen slightly – it was 5 percent of working-age people in 2002 - but that is mainly due to our ageing population (older people tend to have poorer health).

Much of the increase in the number of people on the DSP is because of the ending of a number of payments specifically for older women, causing them to move to the DSP instead.

It is not easy to be accepted for the DSP. The process involves a detailed survey, written reports from doctors, specialists, and assessment by government-chosen experts. New applicants have to be unable to work more than 15 hours per week.

If your only problem is a back condition, you would have to be in almost constant pain or be unable to sit or move around properly to receive the pension. Many people with serious health issues get rejected:

*"Take one of our clients - a 40 year old, mother of three, who was battling breast cancer. Despite having six months of chemotherapy, Centrelink turned down her DSP applications multiple times."*

*"We have dealt with many others - people with HIV, multiple sclerosis, post-traumatic stress disorder who Centrelink have declared ineligible for the DSP, despite the evidence they may not ever be well enough to work." - Peter Horbury, Social Security Rights Victoria.*

In 2012-2013, only 212 people on the DSP were found to be ineligible for the payment. That is less than 0.5 percent of everyone on the DSP.

People with disabilities often struggle to find work. But this is not because they become comfortable or dependent on their payment.

People on the DSP only receive about \$400 per week, or \$20,000 per year. It is not much. 48 percent of people on the DSP live in poverty. And people with a disability are six times more likely to be poor than other Australians.

It is because of discrimination by employers, and barriers in the workplace. And environments that do not accommodate people with physical and mental health issues whose wellbeing may go up and down.

**STOP THE ATTACKS ON THE DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION!!**

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