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THE SENATE

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

**References Committee**

**Inquiry into the purpose, intent and adequacy of the Disability Support Pension**

**SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

**REFERENCES COMMITTEE**

**INQUIRY INTO THE PURPOSE, INTENT AND ADEQUACY OF THE DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION**

The purpose, intent and adequacy of the Disability Support Pension (DSP), with specific reference to:

(a)        the purpose of the DSP;

(b)        the DSP eligibility criteria, assessment and determination, including the need for health assessments and medical evidence and the right to review and appeal;

(c)        the impact of geography, age and other characteristics on the number of people receiving the DSP;

(d)        the impact of the DSP on a disabled person’s ability to find long term, sustainable and appropriate, employment within the open labour market;

(e)        the capacity of the DSP to support persons with disabilities, chronic conditions and ill health, including its capacity to facilitate and support labour market participation where appropriate;

(f)        discrimination within the labour market and its impact on employment, unemployment and underemployment of persons with disabilities and their support networks;

(g)        the adequacy of the DSP and whether it allows people to maintain an acceptable standard of living in line with community expectations;

(h)        the appropriateness of current arrangements for supporting disabled people experiencing insecure employment, inconsistent employment, precarious hours in the workforce; and inequitable workplace practices;

(i)         the economic benefits of improved income support payments and supports for persons with disabilities, their immediate households and broader support services and networks;

(j)         the relative merits of alternative investments in other programs to improve the standard of living of persons with disabilities; and

(k)        any related matters.