

Analysis of Attendance Allowance: special rules cases

February 2011

Background

Attendance Allowance (AA) is a tax-free benefit for disabled adults who need someone to help look after them. It can be claimed by adults aged 65 and over.

Normally, a claimant must have had these care or supervision needs for at least six months. However, if they have a progressive disease and are not expected to live for more than another six months, there are special rules for claiming the benefit to make sure it is processed more quickly and easily.

Further information on AA is available at:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/FinancialSupport/AttendanceAllowance/DG_10012425

The Department publishes a range of statistical information on AA claimants at <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool>, but this does not include statistics on special rules cases. This analysis tabulates the numbers of Attendance Allowance claims in payment at May 2010 which are special rules cases by broad age group.

Results

Attendance Allowance in payment by Special Rules - May 2010

	Total AA cases in payment	Special Rules Caseload	Special Rules Percentage
All	1,614,200	36,100	2.2
65 to 69	56,600	5,200	9.3
70 to 74	185,900	8,400	4.5
75 to 79	305,700	7,900	2.6
80 to 84	419,100	7,700	1.8
85 to 89	397,500	4,800	1.2
90 and Over	249,500	2,100	0.8
Unknown Age	-	-	-

Source: Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% sample.

Notes:

(1) The preferred statistics on benefits are now derived from 100% data sources. However, the 5% sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100% data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of AA claimants. DWP recommends that, where the detail is only available on the 5% sample data, or disabling condition is required, the proportions derived should be scaled up to the overall 100% total for the benefit. These figures have been scaled up to the overall total.

(2) Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 100. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

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