

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2016-2017 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 2.1 Families and Communities**

**Question No: SQ17-000069**

**Topic: Cashless Debit Card**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Rachel Siewert asked:**

1. What legal advice on privacy did you seek before making the decision not to disclose the names of community members on the panels?
2. What specific personal information is given to members of these panels?

**Answer:**

1. The Department sought comprehensive legal advice in relation to the establishment and the operation of the community panels. This advice encompassed privacy law and included advice provided by Australian Government Solicitor. The community panels are not entities controlled by the Department and the disclosure of panel members' names is a decision for individual community panels and their members.
2. Applying to a community panel is a voluntary process and each applicant can choose whether to disclose specific personal information. The specific personal information given to members of the panels depends entirely on the information applicants provide on the panel application form, and whether an applicant consents to the panel administrator verifying this information with external agencies.