

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

Outcome Number: 3.1 Disability, Mental Health and Carers Question No: SQ17-000102

Topic: ESA Panels

Hansard page: Written

Senator Rachel Siewert asked:

Does the Department intend to run a tender or purchasing exercise to select new providers for ESA panels, or if a provider is on one panel in an ESA, will that give them access to all ESAs in that state?

- a. When are you proposing to advertise these purchasing arrangements?
- b. How will you ensure that the new market will work?
- c. Will the Government guarantee a minimum and maximum indicative caseload capacity for each successful panellist?

Answer:

The *New Disability Employment Services from 2018 Discussion Paper* outlines a number of potential changes to the Disability Employment Services (DES) program. In putting advice to the Government on proposed program changes, the Department is considering all feedback received in response to the discussion paper. The features of the program, from 2018 onwards, are subject to decision by Government.