

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: SQ17-000183

Topic: DES Discussion Paper - Transition / Performance Framework

Hansard page: Written

Senator Carol Brown asked:

1. With this level of change to a market model, what is the Government / Department doing in terms of DES Sector Development to ensure a seamless transition for providers, participants and employers?
2. Will any components of the new DES be tested before the new model actually begins?
3. Can the Department explain the proposed purchasing arrangements for the new DES and Does DSS have sufficient resources to undertake a large procurement exercise in this time frame?
4. If there is a tender, what will be the selection criteria to select providers and how will suitable panellists be determined (p. 30 to 31 Discussion Paper)?
5. Will the Government allow an unlimited number of providers in each ESA? (p. 30 Discussion Paper).
6. We understand there will be changes to test some of the new proposals under the current contract. Will the Department consider removing the 78 week program review?
7. It can be assumed that, with the move to the new model, the Performance Framework of DES will have to be amended (for example inclusion of 4 and 52 week paid outcomes, changes to ongoing support). What will this new framework look like and will providers' performance start 'afresh' from the beginning of the new DES or will you continue with the 3 year rolling data?

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 Government on proposed changes to the program, 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.