

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: SQ17-000185

Topic: DES Discussion Paper - Choice & Control

Hansard page: Written

Senator Carol Brown asked:

1. With the move to a 'Choice and Control' model where a participant chooses their provider, what will be the role of Centrelink, if any, in the referral process of participants, given that the current program is based on Centrelink making most of the referrals to providers?
2. Can the Department provide an update on the proposed review of the Gateway and Assessment Process (as suggested in the Discussion Paper (pg. 46)?)
3. Can the Department explain in detail how choice and control will operate in the new DES?
4. Will the participant have choice and support to make that choice and how will that work?
5. How does activity tested policy align with choice and control?
6. Will the Job Plan be the province of the participant and the provider or will it be controlled through the ESS computer system?

Answer:

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