

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

Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments

Question No: SQ17-000241

Topic: Age requirements for various Commonwealth payments, and the four week waiting period

Hansard page: Written

Senator Skye Kakoschke-Moore, asked:

1. In regards to the proposed policy change moving jobseekers aged 22-25 from Newstart to Youth Allowance, did the Department undertake any consultations with relevant stakeholders, such as ACOSS or the Foundation for Young Australians, prior to the policy change being announced?
2. What evidence was used to determine that a 4 week additional waiting period would be appropriate for young people applying for Youth Allowance?
 - a. How was the timeframe, being an additional 4 week waiting period, determined?
3. Youth Allowance applicants will be required to apply for positions and attend job interviews during the additional 4 week waiting period. Will they be able to access funding from a jobactive provider to cover the cost of printing, connectivity, computer access and transport? If so, what is the process for accessing those funds? If not, why not?
4. Has the Department conducted any modelling on the impact for young people potentially being subjected to several 4 week additional waiting periods over short periods of time?

Answer:

The matters raised by this question are no longer relevant as the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Omnibus Savings and Child Care Reform) Bill 2017 was discharged from the Notice Paper on 23 March 2017. The impacts will be dependent on revised implementation dates for the measures contained in the Bill.