



Senator Wendy Askew

Chief Opposition Whip in the Senate
Liberal Senator for Tasmania

27 January 2026

Mr Michael Lye
Secretary of the Department of Social Services

Dear Secretary *Michael*

I write in my capacity as the senior Coalition Senator on the Community Affairs Legislation Committee ahead of Additional Budget Estimates on Wednesday 11 February and Thursday 12 February 2026.

I note that you will appear at Senate Estimates with detailed information regarding the operations of your Department and associated agencies.

In addition to this, I request that officials come before the Committee prepared to address the matters set out below.

- Changes to expenditure following MYEFO 2025/26;
- Detailed information on all payments from Outcome 1 including compliance activities and the duration of welfare recipients on each payment;
- Social Security payments' key performance results;
- Social Security payment accuracy (acknowledging payments have targets which are monitored through joint arrangements between DSS and Services Australia);
- Detailed line-by-line information on all programs, grants and expenditure from Outcome 1 and 2 including contracted and uncontracted funding;
- Income Management;
- Closing the Gap outcomes; and
- Management and accountability within DSS

Yours sincerely

Senator Wendy Askew
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Chief Opposition Whip in the Senate