

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Written Questions from Senator Siewert - ERO Question 1

**Question reference number:** SQ20-000573

**Senator:** Rachel Siewert

**Type of Question:** Written. Hansard Page/s:

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 04 September 2020

**Question:**

Has the Department undertaken any modelling on what the withdrawal of ERO would mean in terms of service cuts and job losses?

**Answer:**

Refer to the answer to SQ20-000091.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

Additional Estimates – 5 March 2020  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Social Services Portfolio  
Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Social and Community Services (SACS) Supplementation Cessation - Impact

**Question reference number:** DSS SQ20-000091

**Outcome Number:** 2 - Families and Communities

**Senator:** Tony Sheldon

**Type of Question:** Written. **Hansard Page/s:** N/A

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 8 May 2020

**Question:**

1. Can the Department of Social Services confirm whether there has been any modelling of the impact of the end of ERO funding in terms of:
  - a. Closure of services;
  - b. Closure of programs;
  - c. Job losses?
2. And if so, can the Department of Social Services please provide the modelling to the Community Affairs Committee?
3. Can the Department of Social Services specify the regions in which service closures and job losses are most likely to occur?
4. Can the Department of Social Services provide modelling on the economic impact to local regional communities of those service closures and job losses?
  - a. And if so, can the Minister provide the modelling to the Community Affairs Committee?

**Answer:**

No programs will be terminated as a result of cessation of the Social and Community Services Pay Equity Special Account.

The impact on services and jobs differs depending on the nature and workforce composition of individual organisations.

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Written Questions from Senator Siewert - ERO Question 2

**Question reference number:** SQ20-000574

**Senator:** Rachel Siewert

**Type of Question:** Written. Hansard Page/s:

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 04 September 2020

**Question:**

What kind of coordinating role is DSS playing as the lead agency on ERO supplementation 2021?

**Answer:**

The Department of Social Services is engaging with other Commonwealth agencies that manage programs affected by the SACS supplementation.

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Written Questions from Senator Siewert - ERO Question 3

**Question reference number:** SQ20-000575

**Senator:** Rachel Siewert

**Type of Question:** Written. Hansard Page/s:

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 04 September 2020

**Question:**

For programs impacted by ERO supplementation, will those contracts be renewed until a decision is made on program redesign?

**Answer:**

The redesign of programs receiving ERO payments is ongoing and the end date of grant programs vary. The Minister has been meeting with the sector on ERO supplementation.

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

**Topic:** Senate Select Committee on COVID-19 - Crisis Accommodation

**Question reference number:** SQ20-000578

**Senator:** Rachel Siewert

**Type of Question:** Written. Hansard Page/s:

**Date set by the Committee for the return of answer:** 04 September 2020

**Question:**

Can the Dept provide a record of the number of additional crisis accommodation places that have been made available since March 2020?

**Answer:**

State and territory governments (states) are primarily responsible for delivering housing and homelessness services, including crisis accommodation. The Australian Government supports them by providing around \$1.6 billion per year through the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA). This includes \$129.1 million in dedicated homelessness funding in 2020-21 and states must match this funding.

Under the NHHA, states determine local priorities along with the type and locations of services funded.