

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Social Services and Other Legislative Amendment (2014 Budget Measures No 1 &2) Bill 2014

Public Hearing

Senator Moore asked on 21 August 2014:

Question

Senator MOORE: It is appellable?

Ms Drayton: The JSCI?

Senator MOORE: Yes, the JSCI assessment. Is it appellable? You can request a reassessment, but is it an appellable decision under the act?

Ms Drayton: I am just going to take some advice on that. The answer is no. I did not think it would be. It is not a decision under an act. It is a streaming tool. It is an assessment. I will just absolutely confirm that, Senator, and provide a response.

Answer

The key role of the Job Seeker Classification Instrument (JSCI) is to determine to which employment services stream a job seeker will be referred. The Department is of the view that a JSCI assessment is not appellable. This is because the application of the JSCI is not a decision which is made under the social security law.

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Social Services and Other Legislative Amendment (2014 Budget Measures No 1 &2) Bill 2014

Public Hearing

Senator Siewert asked on 21 August 2014:

Question

1. Senator SIEWERT: Can I ask for some clarification in terms of the 10,000 a month? I will ask for an average, because with 10,000 you have to. How long has someone been classified in a particular stream when that reclassification is done?

Ms Drayton: I know that I do not have the answer to that here, Senator. I am not sure that I would be able to answer that for you. Usually it would be fairly early in the process. As my colleague mentioned earlier, no-one gets downstreamed. So you cannot go into stream 3 have a reassessment and then end up in stream—

Senator SIEWERT: That is not what I am worried about.

Ms Drayton: I know; it is the length of time.

Senator SIEWERT: I am worried about someone who is put in 1 or 2 and they should actually be in 3 or 4.

Ms Drayton: I will take that on notice. I am not sure that I would be able to get that data. I do know that the majority, 45 per cent, of the changes are from stream 1 to stream 2. Most of them are movements to stream 2.

Senator SIEWERT: Could you take on notice the most up-to-date figure on the percentage that are reassessed?

Ms Drayton: Yes. We have actually got a QUON on that.

Senator SIEWERT: That is what I thought—although I do not think I have seen the answer. I might have.

Ms Drayton: If it is not in a QUON we will see what we can provide for you.

Senator SIEWERT: If you could. In addition to that, could you take on notice any information you do have on the length of time before the reassessment occurs?

Ms Drayton: Yes. What percentage of each Stream have transferred Streams?

Answer

The JSCI is based on a statistical model that determines a job seeker's assessed relative level of disadvantage in the labour market through responses reported by the job seeker and other information sourced from the job seeker's registration record. The JSCI is recognised by the OECD as a sound tool to measure a job seeker's relative labour market disadvantage and as a result a quality tool to target employment assistance. The key role of the JSCI is to determine to which employment services stream a job seeker will be referred.

When a job seeker in Stream 1, 2 or 3, discloses a change in their circumstances or new/additional information, their Job Services Australia provider or Department of Human Services must conduct a new JSCI assessment to assess whether the job seeker is now eligible for a higher stream or should remain in their current stream.

As at 30 June 2014, the proportion of job seekers who moved to a higher stream since 1 July 2009 is:

- 18.4 per cent of job seekers that entered Job Services Australia via Stream 1 upstreamed to a higher stream;
- 14.9 per cent of job seekers that entered Job Services Australia via Stream 2 upstreamed to a higher stream; and
- 8.6 per cent of job seekers that entered Job Services Australia via Stream 3 upstreamed to Stream 4.

As at 30 June 2014, the average time a job seeker spent in Job Services Australia prior to being upstreamed due to a change of job seeker circumstances was:

- 28 weeks for job seekers that entered Job Services Australia via Stream 1 upstreamed to a higher stream
- 35 weeks for job seekers that entered Job Services Australia via Stream 2 upstreamed to a higher stream; and
- 41 weeks for job seekers that entered Job Services Australia via Stream 3 upstreamed to Stream 4.