



THE SENATE
SENATE FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

**Inquiry into the Social Security Legislation Amendment (Community
Development Program) Bill 2015
Public Hearing – Friday 19 February 2016
Questions Taken on Notice – Jobs Australia**

1. HANSARD, Page 15 - 16

Senator SIEWERT: That would be very useful for our understanding of the current situation. Also, could you check with your providers on the subject of taking kids to school, which I have had discussions about in the past. My point is: what happens when they take the kids to school and the kids do not necessarily stay at school all day?

Mr Thompson: We will find out!

2. HANSARD, Page 16

Senator SIEWERT: What happens to compliance—particularly under this new system, where it is the providers who are going to then have to make the decision about whether they have completed the activity or not?

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Mr Thompson: We will find out!

Jobs Australia Response:

According to advice we have received from providers, there is no impact on the attendance of CDP participants if they have taken a child to school and the child does not stay there all day.

There is no consistent approach taken by providers to taking kids to school as a Work for the Dole activity. Some include taking kids to school as a compellable WFD activity in Job Plans, but they do not link the child's staying at school to WFD participation, meaning there is no repercussion for the participant if the child leaves school early. Other providers choose not to include taking kids to school as a Work for the Dole activity.

This means that whether or not a participant has taking kids to school as a Work for the Dole activity in their Job Plan; there is no direct impact on their participation in Work for the Dole if a child they have taken to school leaves school early.

2. HANSARD, Page 16

Senator SIEWERT: What happens to compliance—particularly under this new system, where it is the providers who are going to then have to make the decision about whether they have completed the activity or not?

Jobs Australia Response:

Further to our previous response, there is no impact upon compliance for a CDP participant if a child they have taken to school leaves early. No link is made between a child remaining at school and a CDP participant's participation; regardless of whether taking kids to school is a compulsory Work for the Dole activity or not in their Job Plan.

On the question of whether or not to include taking kids to school as a compulsory activity, some providers have advised that they do not make taking the activity compulsory because it is too difficult to monitor and collect evidence about the participant taking a child to school and/or the child's attendance at school for the full day. Some providers have recently been advised by their regional PM&C office that where obtaining timesheets is difficult, providers should undertake spot checks and take note of the checks they have done.

