

## **Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee**

### **THE APPROPRIATENESS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE OBJECTIVES, DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (CDP)**

#### **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

##### **Department of Human Services**

**Topic:** Assessment for DSP

**Question reference number:** 7

**Senator:** Siewert

**Type of question:** Hansard page 65

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 6 October 2017

**Number of pages:** 2

#### **Question:**

Senator SIEWERT: I will have to put some question on notice. Do they still have the process of proving they can't find work for 18 months before they are assessed for DSP?

Ms Deininger: That's the program of support. Can I take that on notice? I'm not sure exactly what the requirement is for that and how it links into ESAt, but I'm happy to take that on notice. I think you were referring to the program of support.

Senator SIEWERT: Yes, thank you.

#### **Answer:**

A Program of Support is a Commonwealth Government-funded program to help people prepare for, find, or maintain work. It is tailored to a person's level of impairment and helps to address needs and barriers to employment. The aim of a Program of Support is to encourage people to improve their work capacity to the extent they are able, prior to claiming Disability Support Pension (DSP). Current Program of Support providers include Disability Employment Services, Australian Disability Enterprises, jobactive, and Community Development Programme.

A Program of Support is part of the Continuing Inability to Work criterion for DSP and only affects claimants who:

- do not meet the manifest medical eligibility criteria for DSP, such as where a claimant is terminally ill
- do not have a 'severe impairment', defined as not being assessed as having 20 points or more under one Impairment Table
- have not already participated in a Program of Support, generally for a period of 18 months, within the last three years.

To demonstrate active participation in a Program of Support, a claimant must comply with the program and show one of the following:

- participation in a Program of Support for at least 18 months in the three years before claiming DSP
- completion of a Program of Support in the three years before claiming DSP, if the length of the program was less than 18 months
- they have a medical condition which impacts their ability to participate in a Programme of Support, and further participation in a Program of Support will not improve their ability to prepare for, find and keep a job.

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#### **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

##### **Department of Human Services**

**Topic:** Sharing information with other Departments

**Question reference number:** 9

**Senator:** McAllister

**Type of question:** Hansard page 68

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 6 October 2017

**Number of pages:** 1

#### **Question:**

CHAIR: Does DHS do modelling around the special appropriation and provide information to the Department of Finance or any other government agency about what you're anticipating within the program?

Ms Deininger: I am not aware that we do. I am happy to take it on notice and to also check whether those questions have been asked of DHS previously. I just do not have our questions on notice to hand.

Mr Bennett: I am not aware, either. We will take it on notice. It is not something I have seen before.

CHAIR: Do you do it for any other payment stream?

Mr Bennett: That's why I will take it on notice. I haven't necessarily seen this type of information before. If I can break it down: we deliver services and payments on behalf of other policy agencies, so, in terms of some of the information that you have, it may be that the policy agencies have that, as opposed to what I think you are asking, which is that if we had information associated with—if penalties were being applied—what the effect was on the appropriation. I haven't seen that type of information.

#### **Answer:**

The Department of Human Services does not undertake modelling on the special appropriations. Policy agencies are responsible for forecasting and modelling the special appropriations for programmes and policies within their responsibility.