

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

Written Question on Notice – 13 November 2023

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Inquiry into the Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee Bill 2023

Question reference number: IQ23-000189

Question asked by: Marielle Smith

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

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 16 November 2023

Question:

1. How does the current representation on the interim Committee – and what's proposed in this Bill – ensure that the views of people with lived experience are considered?

Answer:

The interim Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee includes representatives of organisations that work closely with and represent people with lived experience of disadvantage, such as the Australian Council of Social Service and the Brotherhood of Saint Laurence.

Consistent with this approach, the Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee Bill 2023 requires the membership include at least:

- one representative of an organisation which advocates, or which consists of individuals with lived experience, in relation to a matter relevant to the performance of the Committee's function; and
- one representative of the community sector involved in assisting or supporting persons who are economically disadvantaged.

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ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Inquiry into the Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee Bill 2023

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Question asked by: Marielle Smith

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

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 16 November 2023

Question:

2. Aside from representation on the Committee itself, what are some of the different consultation models available to the Committee to ensure a diverse range of people with lived experience inform deliberations and influence the recommendations?
 - a. Is the current interim Committee adopting any of these models?

Answer:

Consultation can be undertaken through a range of different models. For example, consultation could involve seeking feedback from communities and individuals, engaging with individuals with lived experience of disadvantage, engaging with organisations or representative organisations for individuals with lived experience of disadvantage or establishing panels or advisory groups that involve people with lived experience to inform deliberations of the Committee.

The interim Committee undertook consultation with people with lived experience to inform its report to Government ahead of the 2023-24 Budget and will outline the consultation it is undertaking in its 2024-25 Budget report.

Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs

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ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Inquiry into the Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee Bill 2023

Question reference number: IQ23-000191

Question asked by: Marielle Smith

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

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 16 November 2023

Question:

3. Several submissions have called for a clause to be included, requiring the Government to publish the Committee's findings at least 14 days ahead of the Budget in line with the Government's commitment and existing ToR. In your view, is it standard practice for this sort of requirement to be legislated, or are other governance arrangements usually adopted?

Answer:

The Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee Bill 2023 requires the Minister for Social Services to publish the Committee's findings on the Department of Social Services' website. This approach enables the findings of the Committee to be published in an open and transparent way.