

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

INQUIRY INTO SOCIAL SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (DRUG TESTING TRIAL) BILL 2019

PUBLIC HEARING 2 OCTOBER 2019

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Procurement Process- Expert Consultation

Question reference number: QoN 1

Member: Siewert

Type of question: Hansard page 48

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 October 2019

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: Do you have or do you intend to have a panel of experts that will be able to provide a level of independent advice as to what is an appropriate or a good technique?

Mr Williamson: Services Australia will conduct the procurement, so I don't want to go into that.

Senator SIEWERT: Ms Mitchell, can I ask you that?

Ms Mitchell: You can, Senator, but our procurement processes will be finalised following the finalisation of the drug-testing rules, because that will determine how we go out to market. Also, we will not commence the procurement process until assent to the bill. So we haven't started to determine what that will look like yet. Of course, we've done some early thinking about it, but there's nothing that I could point to here.

Senator SIEWERT: I'll come back to the drug-testing rules. But you can't tell me whether you're actually going to have a process where you can guarantee that you're going to get the best advice?

Ms Mitchell: I'd have to take that on notice and come back to talk to you about our procurement processes in the Department of Human Services.

Answer:

The Department of Human Services (the Department) has taken expert advice in drafting the preliminary Statement of Requirements as part of the procurement exercise. The Department will continue to take expert advice as required, including in the evaluation of tender responses.

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ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Expert Consultation

Question reference number: QoN 2

Member: Siewert

Type of question: Hansard page 48

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 October 2019

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Ms Mitchell: We have taken expert advice in determining some of the processes that we already have in hand in the department—setting up various rooms, and property modifications and systems. So, yes, we have been in discussions with experts.

Senator SIEWERT: Can you provide the names of those experts?

Answer:

The Department of Human Services (the Department) has taken expert advice on matters associated with testing room design and related property modifications. Advice has also been received on the procurement of drug test providers.

The Department will continue to take expert advice as implementation progresses.

The Department engaged the following experts:

- Agilient
- Alliance Consulting Group
- Aspen Medical
- David Caple & Associates
- JM & MD White
- JMA Architects
- Schiavello Group

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ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Trial Site Provider

Question reference number: QoN 3

Member: Siewert

Type of question: Hansard page 49

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 October 2019

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: Will the tender be for the three trial sites by the same provider? In other words, do you intend that the same provider will do each of the trial sites?

Ms Mitchell: I believe that's our intention, but I would have to confirm that.

Answer:

This is the Department of Human Services' preference, however a procurement process will determine the final arrangements for the provision of services.