

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2011-12 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 345

Topic: DSP

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

No testing occurred with an analysis of effects on people from NESB with disability, there is no intelligence to indicate if the effects will be worse, better or equal for people from NESB with disability. The tables apply the concept of a person's condition being 'diagnosed, treated and stabilised'. For many ethnic communities, there is a reluctance to be diagnosed due to stigma; there is also lack of knowledge about service and treatment options combined with a fear of authority. It thus must be assumed that the impact of the new tables will be worse for the NESB disability community.

1. How will the Government through FaHCSIA ensure that all monitoring, reviews and evaluations of the impact and effects of the new Impairment Tables include an analysis for people from NESB with disability (first and subsequent generations)?
2. How will the Government through FaHCSIA ensure that such analysis is reported publicly?

Answer:

1. The requirement for DSP that a condition be fully diagnosed, treated and stabilised is the same under the new impairment tables as it was under the previous impairment tables. Therefore, the impact of this requirement on DSP claimants has not changed due to the introduction of the new impairment tables.

The Department of Human Services has a range of services specifically designed to assist people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, including people with a disability. This assistance can be used to help people understand claim requirements and obligations.

The Government has committed to an evaluation of the results of the first 18 months of the implementation of the revised Impairment Tables.

2. The Government is considering how to release this information.