

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2014-15 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 3.1 Access and Information

Question No: SQ15-000123

Topic: DHS – impact on service provision

Hansard page: Written

Senator Polley, Helen asked:

1. Given that the issues with means and asset testing impacts on the Department's ability to deliver services and meet KPIs, has advice been sought from the Department of Human Services on when it will provide the funds and the quantum to fix the ageing IT infrastructure?
2. If so, please outline what advice the Department of Human Services has provided in relation to cost and time-frame.
3. If not, when will the Department of Social Services seek this advice?

Answer:

DHS is responsible for means testing and associated payment activities. Systems that support those functions are also the responsibility of DHS.

The cost and timeframe for the improvement of systems that support Aged Care are matters for DHS. Where the improvement to systems affects the management and implementation of the policy and programme, DSS are consulted and participate in the governance of the improvements.