

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

Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments **Question No: SQ15-000188**

Topic: Young People and ‘age of independence’

Hansard page: Written

Senator Siewert, Rachel asked:

Has the Department done an assessment into whether the denial of income support is a consistent with the Convention of the Rights of the Child?

Answer:

The McClure Report, *A New System for Better Employment and Social Outcomes*, is a report to Government, not by Government.

The Report proposes major structural change to the income support system. It is a valuable contribution to the debate on how to proceed with welfare reform but it does not form Government policy to be implemented.

The McClure Report does not propose denying income support to young people. The Report suggests that in providing financial support for people unable to support themselves, the payment system should provide assistance to parents of dependent children and dependent young people and to the individual when they are independent of their parents. The Report notes that children and young people are expected to be engaged in education and so are not expected to support themselves through work below a certain age.

There are some exceptions noted in the Report where income support should still be available to young people aged under 22 years where it has been determined they are independent. For example if they are parents themselves or unable to live at home.