

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: SQ15-000190

Topic: Young People and ‘age of independence’

Hansard page: Written

Senator Siewert, Rachel asked:

What assessment will the Department be undertaking so that it can be confident that the parent or guardian adequately cares for the YA recipient, and is not dealing with substance use issues or personality problems that would leave the young person at risk?

Answer:

This question was asked in the context of a series of related questions (Question No: SQ15-000182, SQ15-000186, SQ15-000188 and SQ15-000189) concerning the McClure Final Report recommending that the age of independence for young people to receive income support in their own right should be 22 years.

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

There are existing State government protections available to ensure the parent or guardian provides adequate care for the young person, as well as Australian and State government funded services and supports for parents or guardians who are experiencing difficult personal or family situations. The Families and Children Activity with the Department’s Families and Communities Programme provides early intervention and prevention support to vulnerable families, children and young people.