

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2015-16 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programmes Question No: SQ16-000056

Topic: Sunset Provisions

Hansard page: Written

Senator Joe Ludwig asked:

1. Please list all current legislation, covered by the department's portfolio, which contain a sunset provision/s. For each, please provide:
 - a. What work has been done towards preparing for the activation of sunset provisions? If no work has commenced, why not?
 - b. Has any consideration been given to delaying or altering the sunset provisions?
 - c. Please provide a schedule or a workplan for the sunset provisions becoming active
 - d. When did/will this work begin?
2. Will there be any reviews of or relating to the legislation before or after the sunset provision is enacted? If yes:
 - a. When is/was the review due to commence?
 - b. What is the expected report date?
 - c. Who is the minister responsible for the review?
 - d. What department is responsible for the review?
 - e. List the specific clauses or legislation under review caused by the statutory provision.
 - f. List the terms of reference.
 - g. What is the scope of the review?
 - h. Who is conducting the review? How were they selected? What are the legislated obligation for the selection of the person to conduct the review?
 - i. What is the budgeted, projected or expected costs of the review?
 - j. When was the Minister briefed on this matter?
 - k. What decision points are upcoming for the minister on this matter?
 - l. List the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review
 - m. Will the report will be tabled in parliament or made public? If so, when?

Answer:

The answers are provided in the **Attachment**.

Answers (prepared as of 1 March 2016):

Social and Community Services Pay Equity Special Account Act 2012, section 10:

This Act ceases to have effect on 30 June 2021.

1.a. None. This legislation ceases effect on 30 June 2021. The duration of the Act aligns with the implementation period of the Fair Work Australia Social and Community Services Equal Remuneration Order.

b. No

c. N/A

d. N/A

2. a-b. N/A

c. If applicable – the Minister for Social Services, the Hon Christian Porter MP

d. If applicable – the Department of Social Services

e-m. N/A

Social Security (Administration) (Trial Area – Ceduna and Surrounding Region) Determination 2015

This Determination ceases on 15 September 2016, section 3.

1.a. Decisions on the future of the cashless debit card trial and its continuation in the Ceduna trial region are matters for the Australian Government.

b. Consideration of any delaying or altering of the sunset provisions will depend on decisions related to the continuation of the cashless debit card trial, which is a matter for the Australian Government.

c. N/A

d. N/A

2. The cashless debit card trial will test the concept of cashless welfare arrangements by disbursing particular welfare payments to a restricted bank account, accessed by a debit card which does not allow cash withdrawals. The trial will test whether significantly reducing access to discretionary cash, by placing a significant proportion of a person's welfare payments into a restricted bank account, can reduce the habitual abuse and associated community level harm resulting from alcohol, gambling and drugs. It will also test whether cashless welfare arrangements are more effective when community bodies are involved.

To the extent this is a trial, there will be reviews of, or relating to, the legislation before or after the instrument expires. The details and content of these reviews will depend on decisions related to the continuation of the cashless debit card trial, which is a matter for the Australian Government.

a- b. N/A

c. If applicable – the Minister for Human Services, the Hon Alan Tudge MP

d. If applicable – the Department of Social Services

e-m. N/A