

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

Outcome Number: 5.1 Disability Mental Health and Carers Programme

Question No: SQ16-000139

Topic: BSWAT Tool

Hansard page: Written

Senator Claire Moore asked:

Please provide an update on the development of a new wage assessment tool. When will this tool be ready for use by ADEs?

Answer:

The Department is participating in a Fair Work Commission (FWC) conciliation process to develop a new wage assessment tool for supported employees in Australian Disability Enterprises (ADEs).

Good progress has been made through the FWC, with the parties agreeing to trial a modified Supported Wage System, from April 2016. The trial is being conducted on the basis of 'no prejudice', meaning parties have agreed to the trial to inform their views, and the outcome of the trial is not binding.

Alternative options for wage setting arrangements were tabled by parties at the FWC conciliation conference on 22 February 2016. Parties have agreed to further explore the options tabled. Details of the conciliation conferences are subject to confidentiality.

The Department will consider all options in the FWC, and the long-term impact of wage setting arrangements on the supported employment sector.

Any new tool will need to be agreed by the parties in the FWC, therefore the Department cannot commit to a finalisation date for the new tool.