

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 5-6 JUNE 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Income support payments – Newstart

Question reference number: HS 23

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Hansard pages 5-6, 6 June 2014

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 25 July 2014

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: This is a real-life case because people are being offered nil-hour contracts now. What happens? You have made a difference between no guarantee of work and a nil-hour contract. Can you tell me what, in the department's eyes, is the difference between those two things and what is the response?

Ms Golightly: I will have to take on notice the difference in the contracts. [pages 5-6, 06/06/14]

Answer:

The department's evidence at the hearing indicated there may be a difference between no guarantee of work and a nil hour contract and that expert advice would be needed on this matter. The department sought advice from the Department of Employment as the responsible policy department.

The Department of Employment has advised that there is no difference between no guarantee of work and a nil hour contract.