

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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

Department of Human Services

Topic: Income support payments

Question reference number: HS 36

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Hansard page 24, 6 June 2014

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator SIEWERT: Yesterday or the day before we traversed with DSS the issue around principal carer and partner. In that circumstance we established that the partner would be subject to earn or learn. If they were not on this nil payment, is there any other concession a family would get that there is a question mark over?

Ms Rule: They may get the pensioner concession card, but that would be tied to other payments like family tax benefit and so on. It is a complex question to answer.

Senator SIEWERT: I understand that. Maybe you could take that on notice. [page 24, 06/06/14]

Answer:

Concessions and Allowances are linked to a recipient's primary payment and the rules pertaining to that payment. The department's role is to provide people with access to support (including concession cards) where they are eligible, in accordance with the Government's policy and relevant legislation. Policy advice in relation to this matter and the impacts of the measure are the responsibility of the Department of Social Services.