

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES – JUNE 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Human Services

Topic: Income Support Payments

Question reference number: HS 38

Senator: Moore

Type of question: Hansard page 26, 6 June 2014

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator MOORE: And there is a follow-up question about how your department and Employment and DSS operates and works together as a team.

Ms Golightly: That is correct.

Senator MOORE: Who is in it and all that kind of stuff. Is that the kind of detail you provide me with on notice about what is the ongoing liaison process?

Ms Golightly: Yes.

Senator MOORE: Does it have a special title, when you are looking at budget issues?

Ms Golightly: Not really. This is something we do every year and it is our—

Senator MOORE: I understand that the departments must work together because of how the system works. But when you have particular changes, like we have now, particularly with particular cohorts, I would like to know exactly what the process is for determination of how a budget issues operates.

Answer:

The department's key partnerships include those with the Department of Social Services and the Department of Employment.

Underpinning the department's partnerships are long standing arrangements that set out the framework for collaboration, which clarify the roles and accountabilities of each agency and which establish the on-going governance arrangements that oversight the relationship.

The governance arrangements provide the basis for the regular liaison that takes place between the department and partner agencies at a programme level. That liaison provides for a strategic oversight of programme performance, including the identification and resolution of any issues or risks that may arise. That liaison also provides the foundation that supports the joint consideration of any changes that may arise to programme or policy settings.

The agreements also provide for the high level oversight by senior officials from both agencies that sets the strategic direction for the relationship and provides for the overall monitoring of programme and payment performance.