

## **Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

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

#### **Department of Human Services**

**Topic:** Budget Measure- Stronger Participation Incentives for Job Seekers Under 30

**Question reference number:** HS 178

**Senator:** Cameron

**Type of question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 2

#### **Question:**

- a) How will the Department engage with people at the end of their six month wait period, if they have not had any contact with them for six months?
- b) Is the Department concerned that young people with no interaction with the Department for six months will simply disengage with the Department entirely?
- c) During the period that these young people are not receiving their payment, unless they have family support, they are likely to be living in poverty, correct?
- d) Has the Department considered where these young people will live? How they will pay their rent?
- e) Has the Department considered how will they pay for food?
- f) Is the Department aware of any other occasion in which any person in this country has been left without income support if they lose their job?
- g) Is the first time that the Government has said that the Australian social safety net is not available to a particular cohort of people?
- h) Does the Department have any concerns about the impact of this measure on young people? What are those concerns?
- i) If yes, then we can take from that that those concerns were ignored by the Minister?
- j) Has the Department discussed the implication of non-payment waiting period with charity providers?
- k) If so, please provide details of who and when?
- l) Is it contemplated to enter into contracts with charity providers?
- m) If so, please provide details.

#### **Answer:**

- a) The department will issue customers their fortnightly reporting statement (SU19) at the end of their waiting period. This is the current practice used when waiting and exclusion periods end. When a customer contacts the department and lodges their fortnightly reporting statement, payment will be stimulated if eligibility criteria are met.

- b) See answer to question (a).
- c) The level of need of each individual will be dependent on their individual circumstance. The department's role is to provide people with access to support where they are eligible, in accordance with the Government's policy and relevant legislation. Policy advice in relation to this matter is the responsibility of the Department of Social Services.
- d) See answer to question (c).
- e) See answer to question (c).
- f) The department cannot answer this question. Access to income support is dependent on a number of variables and an individual's circumstances.
- g) This is a policy question for the Department of Social Services.
- h) The department's role is to provide people with access to support where they are eligible, in accordance with the Government's policy and relevant legislation. Policy advice is the responsibility of the relevant policy agencies.
- i) See answer to question (h).
- j) Discussions with charity organisations regarding this measure are the responsibility of the Department of Social Services.
- k) See answer to question (j).
- l) The department will not be entering into contracts with charity providers as a result of this measure.
- m) Not applicable.