

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2011-12 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 3

Question No: 231

Topic: Trial Sites

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Fifield asked:

With reference Minister Macklin's press release of 10 May 2011, "New Approaches to address disadvantage in targeted communities":

- a) Did the department consider Socio-economic Indexes for Area (SEIFA) data when recommending the ten (including the five income management areas) trial sites to the Government?
- b) If so, was SEIFA data a primary consideration in the recommendation process? If not, why not?
- c) What other considerations formed part of the recommendation process?
- d) Did the Department receive any communications from the Minister about trial site locations prior to the selection of the ten sites that were chosen?
- e) If so, did the Minister provide any guidance as to the processes or criteria for selecting trial sites? Can the Department provide details of that guidance?

Answer:

Socio-economic Indexes for Area (SEIFA) data was one of a number of considerations used in the recommendation process.

A range of other factors were also considered during the recommendation process, including:

- unemployment;
- skills gaps;
- education levels;
- the numbers of people relying on welfare payments as their primary source of income;
- the length of time recipients have been receiving income support payments;
- individual and household incomes;
- the proportions of disengaged teenage parents and jobless families; and
- availability of existing infrastructure and support services.

Communications from the Minister to the Department regarding government policy decisions is a matter for government.