

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2014-15 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 2

Question No: 30

Topic: McClure Welfare Review

Hansard Page: 23/10/2014 CA57

Senator Siewert asked:

Please provide a list of the consultations that have been undertaken on the latest McClure Income Review process. Did the face-to-face meetings in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane include anyone from the Bush? Please provide the dates of the three meetings. Of the group that were randomly selected, how many said yes? What themes were pursued in the consultations?

Answer:

Roundtables with stakeholders are summarised in the following table:

Location	Attendees
Adelaide	23
Brisbane	16
Cairns	15
Canberra	23
Darwin	6
Hobart	14
Melbourne	26
Perth	15
Sydney	24

Roundtables with income support recipients are summarised in the following table:

Location	Attendees
Brisbane	24
Melbourne	20
Sydney	10

Potential participants for the income support recipient roundtables were identified through a randomised data extraction from across the greater suburban area of the city where the consultation was held. Telephone calls were made to invite them to attend a workshop about the payments made by the Department of Human Services (DHS). Specific details about the sessions were not disclosed during the invitation process. Potential participants were informed that participation was voluntary and there would be no impact on the payment regardless of their decision. Around one in ten people who were telephoned accepted the invitation.

Around 100 participants agreed to attend. A total of 54 people actually attended the sessions.

Broadly, the discussions were structured around their goals and the barriers they faced in achieving those goals.