

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

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 178

Topic: Newstart Budget measure - 6 month wait

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Moore asked:

Will any special measures be put in place for people receiving Newstart or Youth Allowance who are experiencing homelessness, including people who are couch surfing, people who are experiencing domestic violence, or people who are caring for relatives?

Answer:

Under the National Affordable Housing Agreement, States and Territories are responsible for the supply of affordable housing across metropolitan and regional areas which have different employment opportunities and transport infrastructure.

The Government has also provided an additional \$229.6 million in job seeker support over four years, from 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2018, for young people affected by the Stronger Participation Incentives for Job Seekers under 30s Initiative who are in financial hardship.

Exemptions will apply to people who have a partial capacity to work less than 30 hours a week, parents with 35 per cent or more care of an FTB child, part time apprentices, principal carer parents, a job seeker with significant barriers to employment under the current employment services arrangements (or the Remote Jobs and Communities Programme equivalent) and Disability Employment Service participants.

Any further exemptions other than those specified above would be a decision for Government and would be dealt with through the Minister's instrument making powers set out in the Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment Bill number 4, currently before Parliament.