

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016, 21 October 2015**

**Ref No:** SQ15-000832

**OUTCOME:** 0 - Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** Machinery of Government (MoG)

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Polley, Helen

**Question:**

- a) Will former DSS staff have the same pay and conditions as DoH staff? Or is there a separate enterprise agreement? Please outline the differences (if any)
- b) Will former DSS staff be transferred to equivalent band levels?
- c) Will they receive more or less pay than their peers who are in DoH?

**Answer:**

- a) Effective 5 November 2015 former Department of Social Services (DSS) staff will be covered by the same employment conditions as Department of Health staff, as set by the *Department of Health and Ageing Enterprise Agreement 2011-2014*.

Former DSS staff will have their current salaries preserved. If a former DSS staff member currently receives an annual salary which is less than the top of the salary range specified for the same classification in the Department of Health's current Enterprise Agreement (EA), the staff member will transition to the equivalent salary or the nearest salary point for that classification specified in the Health EA. If a former DSS staff member currently receives an annual salary greater than the top of the salary range specified for the same classification in Health's current EA, then the staff member's salary will be maintained until the salaries in the Health EA for that classification catch up.

- b) Former DSS staff have been transferred to equivalent classification levels.
- c) Former DSS staff have been transferred to the equivalent salary scales at Health. The pay for former DSS staff will be determined as set out in answer to part a) above.