

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Treasury Portfolio**  
Budget Estimates 2014  
3 June to 5 June 2014

**Department/ Agency:** Treasury

**Question:** BET 718

**Topic:** Age Pension

**Reference:** Hansard – Page No. 42, 5 June 2014

**Senator:** Wong

**Question:**

718. Senator WONG: The Henry review spoke of a consideration in 2020 of any extension of the Age Pension age beyond 67, which was the previous government policy. Was such a review done internally by the government prior to the budget? The Henry review contemplates a review some years ahead of moving from 67 upwards of the Age Pension. Was any review such as the one contemplated by Dr Henry undertaken prior to the budget decision?

Mr Heferen: That is not a revenue issue. I am not aware of—

Senator WONG: You were not involved in anything?

Mr Heferen: No.

Senator WONG: Where would responsibility for that be?

Mr Heferen: The Department of Social Services.

Senator WONG: So Treasury was not asked to engage in anything?

Mr Heferen: I do not know.

Senator WONG: Or you were not.

Mr Heferen: I was not. I am sure those matters may have been canvassed last night at Fiscal Group.

Senator Cormann: What we might do is take on notice the appropriate area in Treasury to confirm one way or the other for you.

Senator WONG: Which group at Treasury provides advice to government in relation to the Age Pension?

Mr Heferen: The Social Policy Division in Fiscal Group.

Senator WONG: What is your role?

Mr Heferen: With the Age Pension? I have no direct role.

Senator WONG: But you have a role in terms of superannuation, because of the tax implications.

Mr Heferen: That is correct. The other thing I would say is that some of the costing work to assist the ministers is done in Tax Analysis Division, which is in Revenue Group, but the policy responsibility, to the extent we have it, rests in Fiscal Group.

**Answer:**

718. Treasury provides advice to the Government on the Age Pension and the broader transfer system.