

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

#### Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-004085

Senator Marshall asked on 29 May 2017 on proof Hansard page 76

Relates to previous Employment Question No EMSQ17-001947

#### Question

##### Risk assessment for Work for the Dole site

Ms Leon: I am have to take that on notice and respond to its into in terms of public interest immunity.

Senator MARSHALL: I must say that I am not sure that I accept that answer too. Everybody that could work it out based on the risk assessment already knows who the person is.

Ms Leon: But they do not necessarily know what the person has disclosed in their individual circumstances. So, when we do those jobseeker risk assessments—

Senator MARSHALL: No, no. All right, go on, sorry.

Ms Leon: When we do the jobseeker risk assessments they go to personal characteristics of the jobseeker. So not everyone will necessarily know, for example, that they have a mental health problem or that they have some kind of health condition. Not everyone will know that. That is something that is only disclosed by the individual.

Mr Hehir: You are right. Those people who do know the jobseeker would then get access to that personal information, and that is what our concern was.

Senator MARSHALL: All right. I thought this was a risk assessment about the job that was being undertaken.

Ms Leon: You want it of the site?

Mr Hehir: You asked for jobseeker. Sorry, Senator.

Ms Leon: There are two sorts of risk assessments that we do. One is a risk assessment of the jobseeker and the other is the risk assessment of the place.

Mr Hehir: Because you asked for the participants you got the jobseeker.

Ms Leon: We might have misunderstood what you wanted. If you want a risk assessment of the place I am happy to take that on notice because we may well be able to provide you with that.

Senator Cash: There seems to have been some confusion.

Senator MARSHALL: You may have me there, and that is once but only once.

Ms Leon: Yes the jobseeker risk assessment offers quite personal health information

Senator MARSHALL: Take both those—

Senator Cash: We can take that one on notice now and revisit it.

#### Answer

Under the *jobactive Deed 2015–2020* and Work for the Dole guideline, a risk assessment (place) must be conducted for each Work for the Dole activity and the Coordinator (or jobactive provider where it has sourced the place) must satisfy themselves there is a safe system of work in place before the activity can proceed.

A risk assessment (place) was conducted in relation to the Work for the Dole activity on 14 July 2016 before it commenced. That risk assessment is attached, with identifying information redacted. The Department considers that providing the risk assessment in full may involve an unreasonable invasion of privacy for the individuals involved in completing the risk assessment.

The risk assessment identifies that an asbestos register was in place at the site as one of the controls for asbestos containing materials.

The site to which the risk assessment relates has had a number of inspections and reviews of the asbestos register performed by an asbestos management company. An asbestos management plan was developed for the site. A general awareness caution sign was installed at the site referring to the asbestos register.

During the 2015 review of the site, a decision was made to remove some items that were in a damaged condition. The inspection certificate relating to this removal is provided as an attachment to SQ17-004086. The inspection certificate confirms that airborne asbestos dust fibres were well below reportable levels and no further inspection of the site was required. The 2015 review identified that all other asbestos containing materials at the site presented a low risk of exposure due to the stability and/or location of the materials. Nevertheless, the asbestos register would be consulted for procedures in the event of discovery of a suspect material at the site. This is consistent with the Risk Assessment (Place).

The 2016 review of the site found no asbestos visible upon inspection and no further requirement to conduct future review inspections of the register or the asbestos management plan on the site.