

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

Public Hearing – 18 July 2023

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment (Strengthening the Safety Net) Bill 2023

Question reference number: IQ23-000062

Question asked by: Janet Rice

Type of Question: Spoken. **Hansard Page/s:**

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 20 July 2023

Question:

Senator Rice - To survive, to be able to pay the rent, afford food, pay for their medications, not be homeless. Do you go through those various measures because of those complexities and have advice to governments that actually reflects upon how a different increase will have different impacts on different cohorts of people?

Mr Flavel - Well, again, yes, we do. We look at different measures and analyse, but not that it's taking into account all of those things that government provides, not just simply whether a change in the Rate of JobSeeker of itself - It alleviates poverty.

Senator Rice - Would you be able to take on notice of the range of different options that you presented to government that take those things into account?

Mr Flavel - Well, yeah, I will take it on notice, noting that I won't be in a position to provide specific details, more than likely about specific options given to government. But I'm happy to take on notice and give further the details of the analysis we do.

Answer:

The Department considers a range of factors when providing advice to government, including the impact of proposals on recipients and the community, economic conditions, fiscal implications and interactions with other policy settings. In relation to income support payments, advice includes relativities between payments, as well as other measures such as national minimum wage.