

Submission on the Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee Bill 2023 [Provisions].

I am currently a member of the Interim Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee, but this submission is made on a personal basis.

My specific comments relate to the following sections of the Bill:

In section 8 (2) e, the Bill refers to people with caring responsibilities, indigenous person and people with disability. I think that this should also include “people with recurrent or long-term health conditions”.

Section 8 (2) g refers to trends in inequality markers in Australia and international comparisons. I would suggest adding “trends in inequality and poverty markers”?

Section 8 (4) says the Committee must demonstrate in the report how it has taken account of the matters specified in 8 (3), which includes “relevant government policies”. This seems very broad, and I think that it would be better to have a more specific list of policies to be taken into account.

The Committee also needs to take into account “the long-term sustainability of the social security system”. I think that long term should be defined – for example, the next 40 years (e.g. the Intergenerational Report time frame), or the next decade.

Section (6) b says that the Joint Ministers can direct the Committee that it addresses specified matters – and no other matters. This seems to me to potentially limit the independence of the Committee.

I hope that all these comments are clear.

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