

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Inquiry into Options for greater involvement by private sector life insurers in worker rehabilitation

19 June 2018

Question no: 1

Type of Question: Hansard Page 33

Senator: O'Neill

Question:

It concerns me somewhat that the FSC submission hasn't featured in the Department of Health's consideration, because what's proposed is a very significant change to the way that funding is being considered for people who are vulnerable and clearly in need of health care. I would encourage you, after this evening, to have a look at that submission. If you could provide your response to it, that would be helpful. (Committee Hansard, 19 June 2018, p. 33)

Answer:

The Department of Health notes the proposal is inconsistent with the existing provisions of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*, and would put services covered under the expanded life insurance arrangements outside the regulatory protections of the private health insurance legislative framework set out in the *Private Health Insurance Act 2007* (the Act).

Under the Act, the community rating ensures that private health insurers do not discriminate against people based on personal attributes such as age, health risk or use of health services.