

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights

Public Hearing – 29 July 2024

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Inquiry into Compulsory Income Management

Question reference number: IQ24-000144

Question asked by: Matt O'Sullivan

Type of Question: Spoken. **Hansard Page/s:** 16

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 05 August 2024

Question:

Senator O'SULLIVAN: The report references the DOMINO data. Firstly, can you explain to us what DOMINO is? The review states that the review team was not able to access unit-level data and was provided with aggregate-level data only. It says that under previous reviews the University of Adelaide was provided with the unit-level data. So, firstly, what is DOMINO data and why was there a difference in the approach this time?

Mr Boneham: On the unit-level data, I'll take on notice the difference between the two evaluations. My understanding of DOMINO is that it's a dataset in relation to payments and the types of payments received broken down by various categories. If you would look on page 4 it states that an analysis of DOMINO data indicated requests for Centrelink urgent payments. I can also clarify that for you if you wish as well.

Answer:

DOMINO stands for Data Over Multiple Individual Occurrences. Established in 2017 as a data asset based on social security payments administrative data, DOMINO provides longitudinal data on individuals' interactions with the welfare system. DOMINO captures information about people's changing circumstances over time.

Access to DOMINO data was provided to the University of Adelaide (UoA) for the earlier evaluations of the Cashless Debit Card (CDC) based on the agreed scope of work and analysis undertaken for these evaluations.

The most recent review included provision of aggregate level information from DOMINO as specified by the UoA review team based on their requirements for the review.

The data provision for the review also included other detailed datasets from the Department including those pertaining to urgent and crisis payments, benefit cancellations and suspensions, and declared income.