

From: Charmaine Crowe
To: [Community Affairs Committee \(SEN\)](#)
Cc:
Subject: RE: Community Affairs committee - QoNs - Welfare Reform public hearing - 30 August 2017 - ACOSS
Date: Monday, 4 September 2017 6:18:08 PM

Dear Carol

Please find below our responses to questions on notice taken during our evidence last Wednesday.

Q1.

There are 168,000 people aged 55-64 receiving Newstart Allowance.

2017 ABS data show that women aged 55-64 have a much lower workforce participation rate compared with their male counterparts (58.8% versus 71.9%).

The Willing to Work report prepared by the Australian Human Rights Commission suggests that although women are less likely to experience disability or health issues compared with men, if they do have them, they are more likely to be unemployed compared with men with disability or health issues (p.39).

The report also shows that age discrimination is gendered. Women aged 50 and over experience the impact of age discrimination differently, with a survey showing that:

- “Women were more likely than men to be perceived as having outdated skills, being slow to learn new things, or as someone who would deliver an unsatisfactory job (51% vs 38% respectively).
- Women were more likely than men to report that the most recent episode of discrimination they had experienced affected their self-esteem or mental health or caused them stress (68% vs 52% respectively)” (p.71)

The report also makes clear that women are more likely to be in a caring role than men.

These points illustrate that it is likely to be more difficult for women in the 55-59 age group to secure paid employment compared with their male counterparts.

Reference:

The Australian Human Rights Commission (2016) ‘Willing to Work: National Inquiry into Employment Discrimination Against Older Australians and Australians with Disability’
http://www.humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/document/publication/WTW_2016_Full_Report_AHRC_ac.pdf

Q2.

2014 ABS data show that there were 773,900 people aged 55-64 had volunteered in the previous 12 months. This comprises 29.3% of people in this age group.
