

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

**Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Bill 2017**

**30 August 2017**

**Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments**

**Question No: 5**

**Topic: Department of Health information about alcohol and other drug services**

**Hansard page: 38**

**Senator Watt** asked:

Could you please provide the committee with the information the Department of Health has given you about the availability of drug and alcohol services?

**Answer:**

The following attachments contain information about relevant health services in the Drug Testing Trial locations and surrounding areas. These were provided to the Department of Social Services by the Department of Health.

**Attachment A:** Relevant Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Services in Logan and Surrounding Areas

**Attachment B:** Relevant Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Services in Canterbury-Bankstown and Surrounding Areas

**Attachment C:** Relevant Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Services in Mandurah and Surrounding Areas

## Relevant Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Services in Logan and Surrounding Areas

Service Type	Service Name	Service Location or PHN where available
Holistic health program for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including early intervention to reduce at risk AOD behaviour, brief interventions, case management, counselling and referrals to internal and external support services.	Accoras (headspace Inala)	Brisbane South PHN region
Social emotional wellbeing services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people including culturally responsive AOD counselling, case management and care planning. Additionally, workforce development activities to build capability of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Workforce in the AOD sector will be provided.	Gallang Place	Brisbane South PHN region
Social emotional wellbeing services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people including culturally responsive AOD counselling, case management and care planning.	Institute of Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH)	Brisbane South PHN region
Counselling, post-rehabilitation support and relapse prevention, and case management, planning and coordination	Queensland Injectors Health Network (QuIHN)	Brisbane South PHN region
Counselling, post-rehabilitation support and relapse prevention, and case management, planning and coordination	Lives Lived Well	Brisbane South PHN region
Support clients to re-engage with their communities and address their misuse of alcohol and other drugs by delivering evidence based group interventions in both custodial and community settings	Lives Lived Well Ltd - Pre-Release Program	Brisbane South PHN region
A Midwife led perinatal substance use specialist service for women who use substances in & around pregnancy and their new born babies - consultation & alcohol & drug use assessment & education for ante-natal clients & in-patients, post-natal home visit.	Mater Misericordiae Health Services Brisbane Limited - National Illicit Drug Strategy and CHAMP Services	Brisbane South PHN region
Home-based relapse prevention and parenting enhancement program, harm minimisation education and information sessions for pregnant and parenting women, their children and families. Direct counselling and support to children (up to 18 years) affected by parental substance use and/or dual diagnosis.	The Corporation of the Synod of the Diocese of Brisbane (Anglicare Southern Queensland) - Assisting Mothers End the Need for Drugs (AMEND), Relapse Prevention and Parenting Enhancement Program (RPPE), and Caring For Kids (CFK)	Brisbane South PHN region

## Relevant Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Services in Logan and Surrounding Areas

Service Type	Service Name	Service Location or PHN where available
Detoxification service that seeks to create an environment where opportunities for recovery from drug and alcohol addiction and personal empowerment exist.	Ozcare - South Brisbane Drug & Alcohol Detoxification Service	
Public Hospital	Logan Hospital	Meadowbrook
Private Same Day	Southside Endoscopy Centre	Loganholme
Private Same Day	Logan Endoscopy Services	Browns Plains
Partners in Recovery Program - Access for people with severe and persistent mental illness with complex multi-agency needs to a Support Facilitator who will assist them to access required services across sectors including clinical and specialist, drug and alcohol, housing, employment, education, hospital emergency departments, mental health and the broader non-government service sector.	Brisbane South PHN	Metro North Brisbane
Day to Day Living Program - Structured and socially based activities that increase the ability of people with severe and persistent mental illness to participate in social, recreational and educational activities.	Sisters Inside Inc	Logan
	Richmond Fellowship of QLD Inc	Logan
The aims of the project are to identify current and emergent needs/issues of concern to the individual and ensure these are addressed. Ensure ex-residents are optimally resourced to successfully and sustainably reintegrate into the community. And to increase the parenting skills of residents of Logan House and hence, strengthen positive parent/child relationships.	Lives Lived Well Ltd - Logan House Assessment and Aftercare Program	
Establishment of a BSPHN AOD Collaborative to identify, address and reduce barriers and issues facing clients seeking AOD support in the region. Specifically, to enhance communication, coordination and information sharing amongst service providers, strengthen sector capacity re treatment and referral, improve workforce capacity.	QNADA	Brisbane South PHN region

## Relevant Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Services in Logan and Surrounding Areas

Service Type	Service Name	Service Location or PHN where available
Undertake needs analysis of; provide service delivery grants to; and to develop practice guidelines for the specialist women's alcohol and other drug services sector and to provide support to services through partnership, organisational and workforce development activities.	NADA - Women's Alcohol and other Drug Services Development	
Funding to employ staff to embed dual diagnosis policies and practices into the organisation's services state-wide, staff supervision, professional development and partnership development.	Lives Lived Well Ltd - Improved Services Project	Brisbane South PHN region
Capacity building support to staff working with clients with a co-occurring alcohol and other drug misuse issues and mental health, including youth, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, culturally and linguistically diverse people, families with children, homeless (and/or at risk of), and comorbidity.	Drug Arm Australasia - Improved Services Project	Brisbane South PHN region

## Relevant Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Services in Canterbury-Bankstown and Surrounding Areas

Service Type	Service Name	Service Location or PHN where available
<p>NUAA: volunteer extension, support groups for women            SESLHD: DBT informed groups (three twelve week programs)            SES Recovery College: Delivery of 5 courses for those who have comorbid mental health and AOD concerns</p>	<p>ACON, Community Restorative Centre, Odyssey House, WHOS             Capacity building funds have been contracted to NUAA, SESLHD and SES Recovery College</p>	<p>Central and Eastern Sydney PHN region</p>
<p>Provide capacity building strategies covering the Haymarket Foundation.</p>	<p>The Haymarket Foundation Ltd - Enhanced Capacity Building Project</p>	<p>Central and Eastern Sydney PHN region</p>
<p>Enhance the capacity of Recovery Services to identify and treat coinciding mental illness and substance misuse</p>	<p>Salvation Army - Enhancing comorbidity knowledge and skills</p>	<p>Central and Eastern Sydney PHN region</p>
<p>Staff development, training and education opportunities</p>	<p>Salvation Army - OASIS Trauma Informed Care</p>	<p>Central and Eastern Sydney PHN region</p>
<p>Mental Health Nurse Coordinator to address mental health needs; provide workforce training and education; and forge partnerships with local mental health services.</p>	<p>UnitingCare - Mental Health Nurse Coordinator at the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC)</p>	<p>Central and Eastern Sydney PHN region</p>
<p>Capacity Building project including Data Collection and Management, Front Line Service Delivery, Workforce Development, Partnerships and linkages</p>	<p>Weave Youth Family Community Inc - Weave Clinical Support and Capacity Building Project</p>	<p>Central and Eastern Sydney PHN region</p>
<p>Improve capacity to assist clients with mental health issues.</p>	<p>Ted Noffs Foundation Improved Services Project</p>	
<p>Build capacity to improve the health and social outcomes of clients with substance use issues</p>	<p>We Help Ourselves (WHOS) - Increasing Organisational Capacity (IOC) Project</p>	
<p>Developing DAMEC Counselling's capacity to manage clients with mental health and psycho- social issues.</p>	<p>DAMEC Complex Client Development Project</p>	<p>South Western Sydney PHN region</p>
<p>Improve treatment and client outcomes by decreasing waiting times and increasing access for women and children. Provide staff training and development for complex needs clients</p>	<p>Women's Alcohol &amp; Drug Advisory Centre - The Jarrah House Program Improved Services Project</p>	

## Relevant Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Services in Canterbury-Bankstown and Surrounding Areas

Service Type	Service Name	Service Location or PHN where available
13 week day program to educate and inform clients, improve Maryfields capacity and raise Dual Diagnosis awareness	Society Of St Vincent de Paul - Maryfields Comorbidity Project	South Western Sydney PHN region
Supports NADA's NGO member organisations to improve their capacity to identify and respond to clients with drug and alcohol, mental health and complex health and social issues including building strategic partnerships and linkages.	Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (NADA) - Sector Capacity Building Program	
Improve movement between services for Aboriginal people.	Community Restorative Centre	Central and Eastern Sydney PHN region
Aftercare and case management	Odyssey House	South Western Sydney PHN region
Drug and alcohol harm reduction and treatment services including supervising injecting episodes. Crisis counselling, information and referral are also provided	UnitingCare - Mental Health Nurse Coordinator at the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC)	Central and Eastern Sydney PHN region
Outreach services targeting CALD clients, counselling services, research and short-term community development projects	DAMEC Bilingual Counselling Project	South Western Sydney PHN region
Residential alcohol & drug rehabilitation facility and aftercare program targeting women aged over 21 years who have a mental health diagnosis & that have children under 12 years of age in their care.	Alcohol & Drug Foundation of NSW - Kathleen York House - Residential Rehabilitation Facility	
Residential drug and alcohol treatment program for men together with outreach and aftercare services.	Glebe House Residential Drug and Alcohol Treatment Service	
Residential rehabilitation (4–6 month) utilising the - modified Therapeutic Community model of care for OST (opioid substitution treatment) clients with a treatment goal of abstinence.	Methadone to Abstinence Residential (MTAR)	
Residential rehabilitation (3–6 month) model of care for OST (opioid substitution treatment) clients with a treatment goal of Stabilisation.	WHOS - Residential Treatment for Opioid Dependence (RTOD)	

## Relevant Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Services in Canterbury-Bankstown and Surrounding Areas

Service Type	Service Name	Service Location or PHN where available
Two residential rehabilitee programs (duration 3–6 months program). Gunyah is a men's only program targeting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. New Beginnings is a women's only program targeting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People	WHOs Gunyah and New Beginnings Enhancement Project	
Residential detoxification and rehabilitation treatment, counselling, aftercare, and referral services for women.	Women's Alcohol & Drug Advisory Centre - The Jarrah House Program	
Specialised treatment to clients with a dual diagnosis (of addiction and mental health)	Odyssey House McGrath Foundation - Janus Program - Dual Diagnosis Treatment	
The only service in NSW that provides for clients to have their dependent children living with them during their residential rehabilitation treatment.	Odyssey House McGrath Foundation - Parents and Children's Program	
Residential rehabilitation of up to three months for youth aged 13-18 years.	The Ted Noffs Foundation - Program for Adolescence Life Management (PALM) Program (NSW)	
Withdrawal management services, rehabilitation services, psychosocial counselling services and aftercare services.	ACON, Community Restorative Centre, Odyssey House, WHOS	Central and Eastern Sydney PHN region
Withdrawal management services, rehabilitation services, psychosocial counselling services and aftercare services.	Community Restorative Centre	Central and Eastern Sydney PHN region
Brief intervention, withdrawal management, psychosocial counselling, after care, relapse prevention, case management	Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation	
Intensive support for drug use and mental health incl. case management support, Counselling, Outreach support, Community development & Community Education	Weave Youth Family Community Inc - Speak Out Dual Diagnosis Program	Central and Eastern Sydney PHN region
Psychosocial counselling, case management and support services for young people	Salvation Army	South Western Sydney PHN region

## Relevant Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Services in Canterbury-Bankstown and Surrounding Areas

Service Type	Service Name	Service Location or PHN where available
Non-residential after-care, outreach support service which assists young people (16 to 25 years) with drug and alcohol issues	Salvation Army - Follow On Youth Recovery Support Team (FYRST) Operating as FYRST Fairfield and FYRST Parramatta	South Western Sydney PHN region
Preventing the uptake and harmful effects of drug use by Truckies through information, education and counselling	St. Vincent's Hospital - TruckiesHelp	
Outreach and counselling service targeting people exiting prisons	Community Restorative Care - Straight Out – Transitional Drug and Alcohol Support for People Exiting Prison	Central and Eastern Sydney PHN region
Public Hospital	Canterbury Hospital	Campsie
Public Hospital	Bankstown-Lodcombe Hospital	Bankstown
Public Hospital	Tresillian Family Care Centre - Belmore	Belmore
GP Shared care withdrawal management	Odyssey House	South Western Sydney PHN region
Medically supervised withdrawal	Odyssey House McGrath Foundation - Medically Assisted Withdrawal Unit	
Non-residential substance abuse program for homeless and disadvantaged youth aged 16 - 25 years.	Salvation Army - Choices Program	Central and Eastern Sydney PHN region
Identify AOD clients with mental health problems	The Haymarket Foundation Ltd - The Haymarket Clinic Drug and Alcohol Counselling Service	Central and Eastern Sydney PHN region
Psychosocial counselling and care coordination	Odyssey House	South Western Sydney PHN region
Before and after care, psychosocial counselling, case management	St Vincent de Paul	South Western Sydney PHN region



## Relevant Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Services in Canterbury-Bankstown and Surrounding Areas

Service Type	Service Name	Service Location or PHN where available
Partners in Recovery Program - Access for people with severe and persistent mental illness with complex multi-agency needs to a Support Facilitator who will assist them to access required services across sectors including clinical and specialist, drug and alcohol, housing, employment, education, hospital emergency departments, mental health and the broader non-government service sector.	New Horizons Enterprises Ltd	Inner West Sydney
Stepped, psychosocial counselling for LGBTQI community	ACON	South Western Sydney PHN region
Culturally appropriate outpatient treatment service and comprehensive assessment service.	Aboriginal Medical Services Cooperative - AMS Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program	Central and Eastern Sydney PHN region
Counselling, group support, aftercare program, referral and rapid response for HIV positive people and GLBT people	ACON Health Limited - Substance Support Service	Central and Eastern Sydney PHN region
Drop-in and resource centre for homeless men and women over 21 years of age including drug and alcohol intervention	The Station Drug and Alcohol Service	Central and Eastern Sydney PHN region
Bridge the gap between treatment and non-treatment of people who are recreational and occasional stimulant users. Provide assessments, education and referrals to appropriate services	St. Vincent's Hospital Limited - Early Intervention Program for Stimulant Users	
Educate and support clients post residential treatment, providing continuing care in a community based facility, focusing on relapse prevention education, employment and education needs.	Odyssey House McGrath Foundation - After Care Program	
Improve data collection from AOD services for Indigenous people.	CESPHN Commissioned Providers, pending outcome of contract negotiations	Central and Eastern Sydney PHN region
Aftercare pathways mapping and gap/barrier analysis	NADA	Central and Eastern Sydney PHN region
Develop more effective models of treatment for LGBTQI communities	AIDS Council of NSW (ACON)	Central and Eastern Sydney PHN region

## Relevant Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Services in Canterbury-Bankstown and Surrounding Areas

Service Type	Service Name	Service Location or PHN where available
Plus training for GPs on AOD recovery and LGBTQI clients	ACON	South Western Sydney PHN region
Develop specialist counselling and peer support capacity; Develop staff knowledge and skills	ACON Health Limited - Comorbidity Capacity Building Program	Central and Eastern Sydney PHN region
Improved access for CALD communities	Drug & Alcohol Multicultural Education Centre (DAMEC)	Central and Eastern Sydney PHN region
Development of cultural guidelines for AOD treatment services	NADA	Central and Eastern Sydney PHN region
Drug & Alcohol GP Shared Care Liaison Project	South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (lead), Sydney Local Health District, St Vincents Local Hospital Network.	Central and Eastern Sydney PHN region

## Relevant Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Services in Mandurah and Surrounding Areas

Service Type	Service Name	Service Location or PHN where available
<p>Counselling and youth, adult and family programs to support people with problematic drug and alcohol use in the South Metropolitan area. The coordinators operate locally, and as a team, to deliver improved programs to clients and to develop an effective program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in the South Metropolitan area.</p>	<p>Palmerston Association Inc - South Metro Community Drug Service</p>	<p>Perth South PHN region</p>
<p>Early intervention targeting mothers and mothers to be with a history of substance use. The attachment building program is delivered by a team of art and drama therapists to mothers and children 'at risk'. Therapists work with both mother and child, and individual counselling is integrated into the service to provide mothers with the opportunities to address the issues underlying their substance misuse and for children to safely externalise their feelings. The Project will target mothers and mothers to be aged 16-40 years, with a history of substance use. Participating children are generally aged 0-10 years, however children aged 12 to 16 years may also engage in the program.</p>	<p>Holyoake Australian Institute For Alcohol And Drug Addiction Resolution Inc - Holyoake Art Therapy Project</p>	<p>Perth South PHN region</p>
<p>Prisoners who have drug related issues are provided with assessment and counselling, with the objective of engaging them in a drug treatment program in the community after release on parole. Counselling is provided for prisoners wishing to engage with the Program in the last four months of their sentence and continues for 8-12 weeks following release as part of their parole conditions or wish to complete further therapy.</p>	<p>Holyoake Australian Institute For Alcohol And Drug Addiction Resolution Inc - Holyoake Prison to Parole Program (PPP/Triple P)</p>	<p>Perth South PHN region</p>
<p>Counselling based service, including individual and family counselling, support and life-skills training for people affected by their own or others drug and alcohol problems. The Family Counsellor will provide these services to clients of the Bridge Program and residents of the Harry Hunter Centre. The Outreach Officer and Case Manager will provide a holistic approach to ensure clients have a smoother transition into the community upon completion of their treatment.</p>	<p>The Salvation Army (WA) Property Trust - Family Counsellor and Outreach Officer</p>	

## Relevant Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Services in Mandurah and Surrounding Areas

Service Type	Service Name	Service Location or PHN where available
<p>The Project will expand the capacity of the services offered to individuals in the Harry Hunter Centre Residential Rehabilitation Centre. The Project aims to increase self-awareness and encourage clients' participation to address alcohol and/or drug issues by providing counselling, while instilling positive life skills and relevant coping strategies to this target group.</p>	<p>The Salvation Army (WA) Property Trust - AOD Counsellor - Harry Hunter Centre</p>	
<p>Culturally secure alcohol and drug services (AOD) to the Peel Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. It will complement allied services by providing reciprocal referral pathways, consultation and shared care for Aboriginal people. The Project will operate out of the Mandurah branch of the South Metro Community Drug Service.</p>	<p>Palmerston Association Inc - Baalap Kwobariny (People Getting Better) - Peel Aboriginal Peoples Project</p>	<p>Perth South PHN region</p>
<p>Treatment type to be determined based on need. Anticipated types to include early/brief intervention, counselling, post treatment support including relapse prevention, care planning and coordination, systems capacity.</p>	<p>Richmond Wellbeing</p>	<p>Perth South PHN region</p>
<p>Treatment type to be determined based on need. Anticipated types to include early/brief intervention, counselling, post treatment support including relapse prevention, care planning and coordination, systems capacity.</p>	<p>Richmond Wellbeing and Relationships Australia WA</p>	<p>Perth South PHN region</p>
<p>Public Hospital</p>	<p>Peel Health Campus - Public</p>	<p>Mandurah</p>
<p>Private Hospital</p>	<p>Peel Health Campus - Private</p>	<p>Mandurah</p>
<p>Counsellors are funded to assist and support families of clients prior to their entry to the Palmerston Farm Therapeutic Community, during the client's participation in the Therapeutic Community and during the transitional stage when clients re-enter the broader community.</p>	<p>Palmerston Association Inc - Palmerston Perth and Farm Therapeutic Community Family Support Program</p>	

## Relevant Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Services in Mandurah and Surrounding Areas

Service Type	Service Name	Service Location or PHN where available
Alcohol Screening, brief intervention, system capacity (referral & integration)	South Metropolitan Health Service  <i>Please note this service has not yet commenced service delivery with commencement expected to occur shortly.</i>	Perth South PHN region
Alcohol Screening, brief intervention, care planning and coordination, systems capacity such as referral & integration	Ruah	Perth South PHN region
Systems capacity (integration & referral), workforce development, early intervention, care planning & coordination	SJOG Raphael Centre	Perth South PHN region
Systems capacity (evaluation), Workforce development	Curtin University (National Drug Research Unit)	Perth South PHN region
Workforce Development	WANADA	Perth South PHN region
Workforce Development	Edith Cowan University	Perth South PHN region
Workforce Development	The Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia	Perth South PHN region

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

**Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Bill 2017**

**30 August 2017**

**Outcome Number: Outcome 1**

**Question No: 7**

**Topic: Decision-making process to determine trial locations**

**Hansard page: pp. 38–39.**

**Senator WATT** asked: “I don't know if it was done in a scoresheet kind of a way or something like that but, again, would you be able to take on notice whatever documentation you are able to provide to us that sets out that decision-making process?”

**Answer:**

In selecting trial locations, the highest level of illicit drug use in Australia was just one of a number of factors considered. Trial locations were considered based on available evidence and data, including:

- the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission's National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program Report 2017,
- the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's National Drug Strategy Household Survey results,
- state/territory government crime statistics in relation to drug use and possession,
- state/territory government hospitalisation statistics, and
- income support administrative data from the Department of Human Services.

Canterbury-Bankstown

- Total population of 346,302 people (2016 Census)
  - Total Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) population as at March 2017 = 11,765
  - Yearly flow of new entrants to Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) = 5,642
- Time series data shows the number of job seekers granted an exemption\* increased by 162.5 per cent from June 2015 to December 2016.
- Between 2009-10 and 2015-16, the rate of methamphetamine hospitalisations rose by 2,153 per cent in Canterbury-Bankstown compared to 1,250 per cent across all Primary Health Networks in NSW.
- Incidents of Drug Offences (Use/Possession of Amphetamines only) over two years increased by around 27 per cent.
- The Wastewater Drug Monitoring data for August 2016\*\* shows usage in Sydney metropolitan areas was 24 doses of methamphetamine (ice) per 1,000 people per day.
- Commonwealth-funded alcohol and other drug treatment services are commissioned through the Central and Eastern Sydney and South Western Sydney PHNs – these PHNs are well placed with 20 contracted treatment services, provided by 14 organisations. The Commonwealth retains a further 13 treatment services, provided by 7 organisations.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

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**Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Bill 2017**

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Logan

- Total population of 303,386 people ( 2016 Census)
  - Total Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) as at March 2017 = 15,575
  - Yearly flow of new entrants to Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) in 2015-16 = 8,568
- Time series data shows the number of job seekers granted an exemption\* increased by 162.5 per cent from December 2014 to December 2016.
- The number of drug offences in the Logan district increased by 18 per cent between 2014 and 2016 and by 77 per cent over the five years since 2012.
- The Wastewater Drug Monitoring data for August 2016\*\* shows usage in Brisbane metropolitan areas was 24 does of methamphetamine (ice) per 1,000 people per day.
- Commonwealth-funded alcohol and other drug treatment services are commissioned through the Brisbane South PHNs – this PHN is well placed with 9 contracted treatment services, provided by 8 organisations. The Commonwealth retains a further 2 treatment services, provided by 2 organisations.

Mandurah

- Data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2013 showed illicit drug use in Mandurah area is 23.6 per cent compared to 16.6 per cent in Western Australia and 14.7 per cent nationally.
- Time series data shows the number of job seekers granted an exemption\* increased by 300.0 per cent from June 2015 to December 2016.
- The number of drug offences in the South Metropolitan Police District (encompassing Mandurah) increased by 23 per cent between 2014-15 and 2015-16, from 4,417 and 5,450.
- The Wastewater Drug Monitoring data for August 2016\*\* shows usage in Perth metropolitan and regional areas the usage was 58 doses of methamphetamine (ice) per 1,000 people per day.
- Commonwealth-funded alcohol and other drug treatment services are commissioned through the Perth South PHN – this PHN is well placed with 15 contracted treatment services, provided by 10 organisations. The Commonwealth retains a further 3 treatment services, provided by 2 organisations.

\*Job seekers with a temporary incapacity exemption

- Job seekers may be granted a temporary incapacity exemption from mutual obligation requirements if they are unable to work for 8 hours or more per week due to a medical condition as evidenced by a medical certificate. This may include a drug dependency condition. An exemption is generally granted for the duration of the medical certificate up to 13 weeks. Job seekers with an exemption are not required to undertake any mutual obligation requirements.

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- A related Budget 2017-18 measure will remove the ability for job seekers to be granted an incapacity exemption on the basis of drug or alcohol dependency.

\*\* Please note the Wastewater Drug Monitoring report doesn't identify usage within individual suburbs or local government areas.



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**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

**Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Bill 2017**

**30 August 2017**

**Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments**

**Question No: 9**

**Topic: Drug testing**

**Hansard page: 44**

**Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE** asked: You were talking a little earlier about having already identified some unintended consequences of the trial with one of the unintended consequences being a person may switch from heroin to an opioid. What are some of the other unintended consequences have you identified?

**Ms Halbert:** I didn't say there would be unintended consequences from the trial; I said that people we have been consulting with have nominated or raised issues that there could be an increase of crime or that there could be people voluntarily going off payment and entering into homelessness. Those sorts of consequences have been raised.

**Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE:** Were there any other ones?

**Ms Halbert:** Probably. Can I take that on notice?

**Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE:** Yes, that would be helpful.

**Answer:**

Possible unintended consequences from the drug testing trial raised during stakeholder discussion were:

- stigmatisation and marginalisation of substance dependent people
- financial hardship
- an increase in criminal activity
- people switching to new and emerging psychoactive substances to avoid detection
- conflict with existing harm-reduction initiatives
- people electing not to apply for welfare or existing recipients leaving payment
- negative impacts on the families and children of affected recipients.

These risks have been considered, however no evidence has been provided by stakeholders about the likelihood of these possible consequences.

The Department is putting in place several strategies to manage risk relating to the drug testing trial. The Secretary must determine that a person not be subject to Income Management if the Secretary becomes aware of circumstances that satisfy them that this would pose a serious risk to a person's mental or physical wellbeing.

Steering committees involving local stakeholders will be established in each trial location over the coming months to ensure that any issues are captured and understood as the measure is rolled out.

A comprehensive evaluation of the drug testing trial, including impacts and outcomes for job seekers, will commence during the trial period. This approach will capture any unintended consequences in real time, allowing them to be handled promptly. The results of the evaluation will inform decisions about the operation of the trial.

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO

Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Bill 2017

30 August 2017

Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments

Question No: 10

Topic: Drug Testing Trial

Hansard page: 44

Senator Kakoshke-Moore asked:

**Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE:** This may have already been asked but are we able to see statistics around the number of people in the trial sites who are already currently undergoing drug or alcohol treatment?

**Ms Halbert:** The Department of Human Services would not hold that information necessarily. All that Human Services would have is information on people currently on payment who have self-declared a substance abuse problem. I think in the broad that information could be made available but I will ask Human Services to respond.

**Mr Bennett:** I did come with some information today but I did not come with that level of detail.

**Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE:** Could you take that on notice?

**Mr Bennett:** Yes, I could take that on notice.

**Answer:**

A Vulnerability Indicator (VI) of drugs/alcohol is a flag on the job seeker's record which indicates they have personal circumstances due to this reason which may impact their capacity to comply with mutual obligations. This flag may be self-disclosed or added by DHS or an employment services provider and may be an underestimate.

As at 31 March 2017, the number of activity tested job seekers in each trial location with a Vulnerability Indicator of drugs/alcohol was:

Logan Government Area (LGA)	Drug/Alcohol Vulnerability Indicator
Canterbury-Bankstown, New South Wales	22
Logan, Queensland	190
Mandurah, Western Australia	15

A temporary incapacity exemption may be granted when a job seeker does not have the capacity to meet their mutual obligation requirements for a period of time due to illness or accident. The figures below show the number of job seekers with a temporary incapacity exemption due to a drug dependency diagnosis in each of the trial locations:

Temporary Incapacity Exemptions	Jun-15	Dec-15	Jun-16	Dec-16
Canterbury-Bankstown	8	19	24	21
Logan	26	37	45	42
Mandurah	5	8	12	20

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**Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Bill 2017**

**30 August 2017**

**Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments**

**Question No: 12**

**Topic: Drug testing**

**Hansard page: 48**

**Senator Siewart** asked:

**Ms Halbert:** Well, both. It is not unanimous within the addiction medicine field that there is no support—not at all. But I'm not going to hide from the fact that there are strong concerns. As I said earlier, people have expressed those concerns but have expressed a willingness to continue to discuss with us to shape the trial up as best it can be.

**Senator SIEWERT:** They don't want to see harm done to people. You haven't done those figures. Could you take on notice to provide the percentage? You don't have to name the organisations. We heard this morning that you talked to some of the addiction specialists and they very clearly said that they don't support this process.

**Ms Halbert:** We might be able to do that, in the broad. Even within the groups it hasn't been necessarily unanimous, but we'll do what we can in that regard.

**Answer:**

The focus of the Department of Social Services' engagement with stakeholders has been to provide briefing on the drug testing trials, and to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to ask questions.

Support for the drug trial was not sought and stakeholders did not generally comment one way or the other. As such, a definitive percent is not available.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

**Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Bill 2017**

**30 August 2017**

**Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments**

**Question No: 13**

**Topic: Income Management**

**Hansard page: 49**

**Senator SIEWERT** asked: And it's 80 per cent? I think I read that there will be provision for the secretary to alter that percentage. Is that correct?

**Ms Halbert:** I don't believe there is discretion to alter the percentage for this particular measure, but I'll take it on notice and we should be able to get you the answer.

**Answer:**

The Government has indicated that if an individual tests positive to drugs, they will be referred to Income Management and have 80 per cent of their payment quarantined. The Minister not the Secretary may specify this percentage in a legislative instrument.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

**Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Bill 2017**

**30 August 2017**

**Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments**

**Question No: 14**

**Topic: Drug Testing Trial**

**Hansard page: 50**

**Senator Siewert** asked:

Could you ask the Minister please whether or not the states were told before the announcement was made that they were getting the trial sites? And if so, did they agree in each of the states?

**Answer:**

The respective state governments were not contacted by the Minister prior to the trial site announcements.

All State Governments were consulted by the Department of Social Services during the process of selecting the trial sites.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

**Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Bill 2017**

**30 August 2017**

**Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments**

**Question No: 16**

**Topic: Drug testing**

**Hansard page: 53**

**Senator Siewart** asked:

I want to follow up the question I was asking around the state departments. Could you take on notice which state departments supported the approach and which didn't?

**Ms Halbert:** I can, but we were not asking for support or otherwise. I think at least one jurisdiction made it clear they were not willing to participate in the trial. I don't think we've had the same from many of the other jurisdictions. We have been having discussions with them, but we weren't asking them to declare whether or not they supported the trial.

**Answer:**

The focus of the Department of Social Services' engagement with state governments was to provide details of the drug trials to state bureaucrats and seek information on existing treatment services across the states, not to seek support.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

**Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Bill 2017**

**30 August 2017**

**Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments**

**Question No: 17**

**Topic: Drug testing**

**Hansard page: 55**

**Senator Siewart** asked:

Could you take on notice any others that did or didn't express a view? Could you also take on notice if you asked—and the response—any of the local councils, industry trial sites, whether they supported it? And is it possible to get a copy of the evaluation plan?

**Ms Halbert:** I don't believe it's possible to get a copy of the evaluation plan yet, but we'll take on notice when that will be available.

**Answer:**

The Department of Social Services has met with the administration officers (not elected members) of the Logan City Council and the Canterbury-Bankstown Council. The purpose of these consultations was to provide briefing on the drug testing trials, and to provide an opportunity for stakeholders at these briefings to ask questions. Support for the measure was not sought.

The evaluation plan is not yet available for circulation. The department is currently scoping the evaluation of the drug testing trial. The evaluation plan will take into account the feedback received from treatment experts, academics and peak bodies. The department will continue to work with stakeholders to inform the evaluation of the trial.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

**Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Bill 2017**

**30 August 2017**

**Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments**

**Question No: written**

**Topic: Drug Testing Trial**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Sierwert** asked:

Under the proposed mandatory drug testing trial in Schedule 12 of the Bill, can you advise whether a mandatory child protection notification be made when a parent receives a positive drug test?

**Answer:**

Under privacy laws, including in the *Privacy Act 1988* and the *Social Security (Administration) Act 1999*, protected information about a person can only be disclosed in limited circumstances. For example, under social security law, this includes for the purposes of administering that law; for research, statistical analysis or policy development; and where it has been certified as being in the public interest.

Disclosure of test results will only occur in accordance with these laws.

There are general processes which allow for the disclosure of personal information to the police or state authorities in very limited circumstances and in accordance with existing laws. This includes in relation to certain offences, to prevent or lessen a threat to the life, health or welfare of a person, or for child protection purposes.



**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

**Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Bill 2017**

**30 August 2017**

**Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments**

**Question No: Written**

**Topic: Local Government Area boundaries for Drug Test Trial locations**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Siewert** asked:

Could the Department please confirm where the physical boundaries of each of the trial sites will be? How will the boundaries be determined? Can the Department please provide a map of each trial site?

**Answer:**

The drug testing trial locations are defined as the Local Government Areas (LGA) of Mandurah in Western Australia, Canterbury-Bankstown in New South Wales and Logan in Queensland. These will be set out in the subordinate legislation provided for in the Social Security Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Bill 2017.

LGA boundary maps can be obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics website at <http://stat.abs.gov.au/itt/r.jsp?ABSMaps>

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

**Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Bill 2017**

**30 August 2017**

**Outcome Number: 1**

**Question No: written**

**Topic: Drug Testing Trial**

**Hansard page: written**

**Senator Di Natale** asked:

In relation to Schedule 13, could the Department confirm that people outside the three drug testing trial areas are able to satisfy mutual obligation requirements if drug or alcohol treatment is part of their pathway plan?

**Answer:**

From 1 January 2018 anyone in the welfare system will be able to have drug and alcohol treatment in their Job Plan and have this count towards their annual activity requirements.

Participation in drug or alcohol treatment will help to meet a job seeker's mutual obligation requirements. If the job seeker is undertaking intensive treatment (such as residential rehabilitation) and is unable to participate in other activities, the treatment will fully meet their mutual obligation requirements. If they are undertaking less intensive treatment (such as a fortnightly counselling session), this would contribute to meeting their mutual obligation requirements. These job seekers may be required to undertake other activities, such as job search, but may have their other requirements reduced, depending on the requirements of their treatment program.

**Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

**Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Bill 2017**

**30 August 2017**

**Outcome Number: 1.10 Working Age Payments**

**Question No:**

**Topic: Drug Testing**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator DI NATALI** asked: Could department also confirm that if an individual self-declares in a drug testing trial area, will they be placed on income management?

**Answer:**

The Voluntary Income Management measure applies in the three drug testing trial regions. This means payment recipients in drug testing regions may be able to enter into a voluntary agreement under which their income support and family payments will be income managed.