

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2013-14 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 5

Question No: 682

Topic: Business Services Wage Assessment Tool (BSWAT)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

- (a) What research has the Department undertaken to move to the supported wages system?
- (b) What studies has the Department undertaken to provide evidence to support the claim that the move from the BSWAT to the SWS would negatively impact the viability of ADEs including loss of jobs?
- (c) What studies has the Department undertaken on the use of SWS in ADEs and the impact on viability of the business?
- (d) Have these studies been publicly released? If not, when will they be released?
- (e) Has there been a tender process for undertaking these studies?
- (f) What has the cost been for consultants to undertake these studies?

Answer:

(a)-(d) When wage assessment was being introduced in the early 2000s, a number of research consultancies were undertaken that considered the use of the Supported Wage System and these were published at the time.

(e)-(f) As there has not been a need for additional research on this matter, it has not been necessary to conduct a tender process.