

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2015-16 Additional Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programmes Question No: SQ16-000235

Topic: Language

Hansard page: 32 and 34

Senator Claire Moore asked:

Has the department used the term unsustainable? Everything printed by DSS with 'unsustainable' - I know you cannot do that. But in terms of core documents that go into the public arena. As we said in earlier discussions, in recent statements or products the terms 'burden' or 'unsustainability' were not used? You are going to check that out for us?

Answer:

The following core documents were checked in relation to use of the words 'unsustainable', 'unsustainability' and 'burden': the DSS Annual Report 2014-15; DSS Corporate Plan 2015-16; Portfolio Budget Statements 2015-16, Budget Related Paper No. 1.15A, Social Services Portfolio; Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements 2015-16, Social Services Portfolio; and the DSS Enterprise Agreement 2015 to 2018.

The words 'unsustainable' and 'unsustainability' were not found in any of the core documents listed above.

The word 'burden' was used nine times. All but one reference was in the context of reducing regulatory burden. The other use of 'burden' was a quote from an aged care consumer in a case study.