

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

BUDGET ESTIMATES - 4 JUNE 2013 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: New Categories of Income Management – Youth Protocol

Question reference number: HS 87

Senator: Siewert

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 July 2013

Number of pages: 1

Question:

What is the status of the Youth Protocols with the states and territories, which is meant to provide a framework for policies that look after at risk young people, including those on Special Benefit. What plans are there for review these protocols? Is any review being undertaken currently?

Answer:

The Youth Protocol outlines the process for the Department to refer young people at risk, and who are seeking income support, to child protection authorities in the States and Territories.

The Department's social workers currently refer young people at risk in accordance with the Protocol arrangements.

Responsibility for the Protocol was formally transferred from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations to the Department of Human Services in December 2012.

The Department is currently examining options for reviewing Protocol agreements with the States and Territories in 2013-14.